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# GEM



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**GEM FEATURE: MAKING LIFE EASIER**

See pages 21-24

**CHILDREN'S CHOICES**

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**MARIE CURIE DAFFODIL APPEAL**

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**SIX NATIONS RUGBY**

BACK PAGE COMMENT - PAGE 44

## Promising rugby player up in court after night club incident

A Scarlets rugby player attacked a man in a Porthcawl club, fracturing his left cheekbone, it has been alleged at Cardiff Crown Court, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Kyle Evans, 24, of Beach Road, Pyle, later told the police he was acting in self-defence.

Evans has pleaded not guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm on Jamie Smith on January 1, 2014.

Prosecutor Mike Hammett said Mr Smith was staying at the Porthcawl Hotel with his girlfriend.

Shortly after midnight, they were in Streets Club, attached to the hotel, when a man stumbled into their table, knocking over their drinks.

Evans went to assist, but allegedly lost his temper and hit Mr Smith on the left cheek, fracturing it.

The jury was shown CCTV footage of the incident.

Evans ran from the club, up a lane, was pursued by the police and arrested shortly after.

During interview by the police, Evans said he believed he was going to be punched and struck a single blow in self defence.

The case continues.

## RNLI RUB SHOULDERS WITH ROYALTY!



The Princess Royal meets volunteer crew members.  
Photo by David Williams/RNLI.

## POLICE APPEAL AFTER HOUSE FIRE

POLICE are appealing for information after a suspected deliberate house fire in the early hours of Tuesday, January 27.

It happened in Llangewydd Road, Bryntirion, Bridgend, around 4.20am. Officers were called after a report of smoke coming from the property.

Detective Inspector Sue Sidford said: "While the property was empty, there was a real risk to those next door."

"We are carrying out forensic and house to house inquiries, but we really need anyone who has information but hasn't come forward yet to call us. We are particularly keen to hear from anyone who may have seen anyone acting suspiciously on Llangewydd Road around the time of the fire".

Anyone with information is asked to contact South Wales Police on 101, quoting reference number 1500030245. Alternatively, Crimestoppers can be called, free and anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

ABOVE:  
It was a very special day on Monday (February 9) for volunteers at the Porthcawl RNLI.

They hosted a royal visit, as the Princess Royal arrived to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the lifeboat station, which was built when the RNLI decided to reinstate the Porthcawl rescue service, after a gap of 63 years. It turned out to be a wise decision, as last year Porthcawl was the busiest station in Wales! (See pages 6 and 8 for a full report and more pictures).

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## Council will trial new heating ideas

**NEW jobs and training opportunities are on the horizon after Bridgend County Borough Council launched a successful bid to take part in a £100m smart heating programme.**

The council is one of just three local authorities in the UK – and the only one in Wales – to be shortlisted for the Energy Technologies Institute's Smart Systems and Heat (SSH) scheme, following a competitive two-year selection process.

Together with the Welsh Government, the council will work with the ETI to develop plans to heat homes and businesses using cutting-edge technology, which is expected to generate jobs, reduce fuel poverty and tackle health risks.

A BCBC spokesman said: "Among the potential solutions that could be put forward are the creation of district 'heat networks,' with energy centres and large ground-source heat pumps for residents to share, or smaller heat pumps for individual homes to use."

Residents who don't want to be involved in a heat network, or who don't want to install heat pumps, could be provided with alternative solutions, such as electric heating fans and heat storage facilities instead. The scheme will look

at urban, suburban and rural properties, and factors including cost, local geography, housing types, population density, demographics and local attitudes will be taken into account.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities, said: "Although still in the very early stages, it is extremely encouraging that BCBC has been chosen by the ETI to take this ground-breaking project forward."

"From the outset, the competition has been intense, with over 40 other UK local authorities involved in the selection process. BCBC is the only authority in Wales to have made the shortlist, and we are particularly grateful to our partners in the Welsh Government for their support."

Based in the Midlands, the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) is a public-private partnership between global engineering companies and the UK Government. It brings together the worlds of academia, industry and government to speed up the development of affordable, secure and sustainable low-carbon technology.

Welsh Government Minister for Natural Resources, Carl Sargeant, added: "Congratulations to BCBC on their success in securing investment through the Smart Systems and Heat programme."

## Response team on hand for elderly residents

**FOR many people, the winter months involve warding off the latest bugs and a constant battle to remain healthy and independent.**

But help is on hand to give local residents the in-depth support and care they require to stay well at home, and reduce the need to go into hospital.

The 'Early Response Team', a joint health and social care service provided by Bridgend County Borough Council and the ABMU Health Board, with additional Welsh Government funding as part of the Western Bay Health and Social Care Programme, is available to provide a burst of short term care at a time of crisis.

When a resident has been referred to them,

either via a GP, district nurse, social worker or the ambulance service, the team will conduct a full assessment of a patient's needs, looking at their physical condition and level of independence.

They'll try to uncover the root cause of an illness, treat and manage the illness while considering an individual's support network, and what personal care and assistance is necessary for them to return to full health.

To find out more about how their services could help you, a relative or friend, please speak to your GP or call Bridgend County Borough Council's Integrated Referral Management Centre on 01656 642279.

## Readers' Letters

**Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk**

**LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER**

**IMPORTANT:** We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

An email address alone is not sufficient!  
We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

## FRACKING: A BOLD ASSEMBLY MOVE (but clear guidelines needed)

**CONGRATULATIONS to the Welsh Assembly on taking a bold and significant step to prevent fracking in Wales until it's proved safe. Last Wednesday, February 4, following a debate in the plenary session, Assembly Members voted in favour of a freeze on fracking.**

Our organisation, Llantrithyd Residents' Association, has been campaigning against the dangers posed by fracking to health of the local and animal population and the environment. We were delighted by the news.

## Call for help for families in need

**I AM hoping that GEM readers can help us as we are in desperate need of furniture and household items, non perishable food items and cleaning products for families and individuals that are waiting for our help.**

We are a tiny voluntary group called Community Furniture Aid based in Pyle, and we offer donated items to those who are most in need.

The people are directed to us from various agencies including homeless, Women's Aid, prison service, foster care, elderly and vulnerable adults to name a few. We also work with social services and housing associations.

We offer this service on a set donation price system that only just covers our very basic costs and we are all volunteers. We cover all of Bridgend county borough and can also help in neighbouring areas for an extra charge in some cases.

We offer a part-house clearance service as well as single item collection. We can only afford to run our van two days a week so have to try and fit a lot into our days. We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds.

We also seek monetary donations that the public may wish to give to support our vital work, as we receive no outside funding.

Please can we do a 'shout out' for household items. We are in desperate need of items for families. Dinner plates, bowls, cutlery, mugs, beds, bedroom furniture, beds all sizes, cots (with all bolts) sofa with fire labels, white goods in working order as well as small electrical goods.

These are essential for someone having to set up a home from nothing. We can also take clothing.

Please contact the office to arrange collection or you can drop off items in Pyle.

If you wish to visit the unit please do get in touch with the office directly on 01656 746602.

**Marianne Cash,**  
Community Furniture Aid.

However, we believe that, in light of this important declaration, the National Assembly needs to issue new, clear guidelines to local councils to assist them in declining future fracking planning applications, confident in the knowledge that their decision won't be overturned upon appeal.

*Llongyfarchiadau mawr i'r Cynulliad ar y cam arwyddocaol yma.*

We also say a big thank you to everyone who has supported us and signed our petition.

**Sian Elin Jones,**  
(Chair, Llantrithyd Residents' Association).

## Bridge engineers should match the Japanese efficiency

**WITH reference to the planned closure of the B4265 road at Ewenny for the replacement of the road bridge over the Vale railway line.**

1. I am surprised that the residents and business people of St Brides were apparently caught unawares by the planned (now postponed) closure. It was advertised in the local press well before Christmas 2014.

2. As someone who commutes daily to Bridgend, I travel on this road by preference, as the standards of driving exhibited on the alternative route via the A48 are abysmal and continue to worsen.

I am in turn surprised that this work should need five months to complete.

Surely the bridge structure which is being replaced will be pre-fabricated beforehand in one or more sections and then placed into position by crane.

So assuming that any re-modelling of the

approach roads to the bridge could be undertaken by selectively closing 1 of the carriageways – at least for most of the work – then the time needed to actually close the road could be drastically reduced, potentially to weekends or overnight periods?

Compare the approach to this work with the work undertaken in Japan following the devastation to infrastructure caused by the tsunami.

There they were able to replace complex road infrastructures in days.

Surely we can match the project management and engineering expertise shown by the Japanese here in the UK?

Closing this road for five months will cause major disruption due to the alternative routes being offered – much of the traffic that uses these roads consists of HGV vehicles.

It will have a real impact on the people who use that road as part of their daily lives.

**Nick Meyrick,**

## Pyle tenants break charity chick record

**TENANTS at Llys Cynffig, Pyle, near Bridgend joined forces and raised a record-breaking £2,414 for Macmillan Cancer Support.**

Gaynor Powell, from Llys Cynffig said: "Our fundraising efforts consisted of a group of us knitting Easter chicks and selling them, this raised £200. We had a raffle every Friday, where each tenant in turn would donate a raffle prize. This alone raised over £1,000."

"We also had our 'fat club', with regular weigh-ins! In November, we held a Christmas fete which saw all the tenants coming together to make arts and crafts, knitted toys, cakes, a raffle etc, and this amassed over £600. Finally, we had a copper jar that we put our 1p and 2ps in".

Macmillan Cancer Support was selected as their charity of the year for 2014 by secret ballot and the charity was a

clear winner. Gaynor added: "Our complex is quite small with just 30 flats, the majority of which are single, retired people on pensions, so it takes a lot of effort to raise this amount of money which everyone donates so freely."

"We select a different charity each year and 2014 has been our most successful year to date. I personally feel very proud to be a part of this small community who, no matter how hard things are for themselves always think of others less fortunate."

Nicola Newhams, fundraising manager at Macmillan Cancer Support said: "Cancer is the toughest fight most of us will ever face and the feelings of loneliness and isolation that so many people experience make it even harder."

"Now, more than ever, we need people like the team at Llys Cynffig to get involved. We rely on our supporters for 98 per cent of our income and such donations make a huge difference to those affected by cancer."

## Healthy eating scheme for pupils

**FROM this week children in Maesteg get the opportunity to learn about healthy breakfasts following a partnership with Tesco and Maesteg Halo Leisure centre.**

Tesco staff will prepare food and teach pupils from eight primary schools over an eight-week period, starting with Bryn Primary School in Old Neath Road.

Following the morning lesson sporting activities organised by the leisure centre will take place.

The Mayor of Maesteg, Coun Jenkins, said: "It's a marvellous initiative and I am very pleased to be involved in this. Encouraging children from the Valleys to eat healthy and be healthy is excellent".

Event organiser, Jade Yee of Tesco Maesteg said: "It's really important we play our part in educating children in our local community about healthy food. It was also really good fun to organise!"

## HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL FEBRUARY 19)

*The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.*

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
12 Thur	11.17	8.1	23.51	7.8
13 Fri			12.23	7.8
14 Sat	01.01	7.7	13.42	7.6
15 Sun	02.29	7.8	15.04	8.0
16 Mon	03.44	8.4	16.19	8.7
17 Tues	04.44	9.2	17.17	9.4
18 Wed	05.35	9.9	18.06	10.0
19 Thur	06.31	10.5	18.58	10.4

*While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.*

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## CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

# Man jailed after making threats to ex-girlfriend

A FUNERAL director has been jailed for a year at Cardiff Crown Court for threatening to burn down the home of an ex-girlfriend, a probation officer, and the home of her parents.

## Cefn Glas man sentenced for 'street dealing'

A STREET dealer in drugs has been sentenced to two years, eight months in a young offender institution by Cardiff Crown Court.

Samuel Stokes (20), who had no previous convictions, admitted supplying cocaine and mephadrone and attempting to possess cocaine with intent to supply.

Stokes, of Maes Gwair, Cefn Glas, Bridgend, was told by Recorder Greg Bull QC: "You were a street dealer in class A and class B drugs. You supplied, for a relatively long period of time, five or six friends. I give you full credit for your complete frankness."

The Recorder added: "Sadly, dealing in class A drugs is extremely serious. Cocaine can kill, it's a dangerous drug, one of the most dangerous and you supplied it. A sentence of imprisonment is inevitable."

Prosecutor David Pugh said that on July 20, a doorman at Sax Nightclub, Bridgend, saw the defendant drop a

plastic bag. He was searched, and two more bags were found on him.

Mr Pugh said that Stokes believed they contained cocaine, but when later analysed, they were found not to contain any drugs at all.

His home was searched and police recovered an iPhone on which were texts concerning drug supply.

"There were several requests for him for drugs," said Mr Pugh.

Stokes was arrested, and admitted supplying to friends and that he used cocaine and mephadrone himself.

His solicitor, Stuart John, said: "He falls to be sentenced as a street dealer. At the time, he was addicted to cocaine and mephadrone. He had a troubled adolescence and took drugs because they gave him confidence. He was even unable to go to work without taking drugs."

He said that this was the first time Stokes had troubled the court system, and since his arrest, he had been drug-free.

He added: "He is seriously fearful of immediate imprisonment."

Alan Grey (36) of no fixed address, who has lived in the North Cornelly area, admitted threatening to cause damage.

Recorder Jonathan Furness QC said: "This was the culmination of previous incidents and it was wholly inappropriate."

"The pre-sentence report makes disturbing reading and the risk of your re-offending is high."

He made a five-year restraining order preventing Grey contacting Laura King and her parents.

Prosecutor David Thomas said Grey and Ms King had been in a relationship and they parted following domestic violence.

She lived at Cheltenham Terrace, Bridgend. On one occasion when he was violent towards her, she didn't raise the matter, and decided to "get on with it".

But on October 14 she decided to end the relationship.

On October 22, he left her a message saying, "I'll burn your \*\*\*\*ing house down, then your mother's and father's too. Do you hear me?"

He added, "I'll make sure they're in it."

When arrested, Grey said: "Yes, whatever, I don't care."

He was said to have previous convictions for causing criminal damage and affray and once went to his family home and threatened his own father.

Previously, he had damaged a windscreen and a door of Miss King's car, and texted her a message which read, "Ha ha, look at your car."

His barrister, Kevin Seal, said, "There was bad feeling between all the parties. At the time, he was effectively homeless, and he accepts that what he said was out of spite. He's had a troubled past, worked hard and can stay out of trouble."

## Women urged to join the Race For Life

THIS Valentine's Day (Saturday, February 14), women in Bridgend are urged to enter Cancer Research UK's Race For Life.

Event organisers are asking women to make a date to beat cancer by signing up for a Race for Life 5k event at Newbridge Fields on

May 31.

Lisa Sweeting, Cancer Research UK's Bridgend events manager, said:

"Everyone who takes part in Race for Life, and raises money for life-saving research, will be playing a crucial role in helping more men, women and children survive cancer. They will be giving them the chance to have more time with the people they love and to create more precious memories together."

"Pledging to take part in Race for Life, alongside thousands of like minded women, is incredibly motivating."

"The atmosphere on the day is full of emotion. Participants wear signs on their backs declaring their reasons for taking part."

"Many will be remembering loved ones lost to cancer, or celebrating the lives of people dear to them who have survived."

Last year, 1,800 women took part in Race for Life in Bridgend and raised £72,000. This year, organisers need 1,950 women and girls to stride out to help raise £75,000.

To enter Race for Life's the 5k event in the Bridgend, visit [raceforlife.org](http://raceforlife.org) or call 0300 123 0770.

# PROJECT AIMS TO TURN YOUNG PEOPLE ON TO CHARITY SHOPS

A team of young people from Maesteg is aiming to make charity clothes shopping more appealing to those aged from 16 to 24 – to help save money when shopping for clothes.

The group carried out research by asking young people in the area why so few of them visited charity shops. The most common response was... 'there's no clothing for our age group in them'.

The team then searched local stores to find this to be true – clothing in charity shops was rarely appealing to the teen market.

So they decided to change this and, working with the Talbot Street Branch of TenoNovus in Maesteg, put out an appeal for more teen clothing donations.

The appeal was a success and the team has set up its own wall of teen-friendly clothing at the store, keeping track of its popularity, and how many sales it generates.

The group received a £500 award to carry out the project as part of the 'Money for Life



Challenge', which is run by Lloyd's Banking Group.

Nicola Berry, project sponsor of the 'Money for Life Challenge' at Bridgend College said: "We are so proud of the C-Bank team, their project is proving to be a great success."

"They are dedicated to helping young people in their area save money, and by making charity shopping more appealing and relevant to them, they are showing some real initiative in how to promote good money management – and learning some important skills along the way."

The team is among 80 from Wales and 340 across the UK taking

part. All teams are made up of young people in further education, training or community organisations and will each spend three months rolling out projects in their community. In March 2015, they will submit their projects to the Money for Life Challenge judges, who will go on to choose the best teams to present at national finals held in Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and regional finals for the north and south of England.

## Fundraiser held for disabled footballers

ON Tuesday, February 17, Bridgend DFC will be hosting a fundraising evening at Penybont FC, to raise money to help send a team to Belgium later this year.

Included in the event will be buffet, karaoke, disco, bingo and raffle. All proceeds raised will help send the team to the Belgium International for the Disabled in May.

Tickets are priced at adults £2 and children £1. Doors open at 7pm.

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# Council targets girls with exercise initiative

**TASTER sessions of activities such as martial arts, aqua zumba, roller blading and kettle bells have been put on in local schools as part of a programme which aims to get more young girls taking part in physical activity.**

Girls from Cynffig, Maesteg and Bryntirion Comprehensive Schools were offered the taster activities to encourage them to sign up to a 10-week 'Us Girls' fitness programme that has been created by Bridgend County Borough Council's Active Young People's Department, in partnership with Communities First and Street Games UK.

The target audience are girls from 11 years of age and upwards, and the programmes include innovative ways of getting the girls involved. After recognising one of the barriers for girls being more active was their

appearance, local stylists were brought in to demonstrate different techniques to use when exercising, and the girls themselves chose the activities they wanted to take part in.

The cabinet member for children and young people, Coun Huw David, said: "By engaging with the pupils themselves and conducting research, our active young people's department is providing programmes of interest to young girls to keep them participating in physical activity at a time when research suggests they become disinterested."

"The network of girls who support these programmes have already been responsible for changes to PE kits, equipment and activities in participating schools."

"I think this is a fantastic way of empowering young people and encouraging them to lead healthy lifestyles while at school and within their communities."



Bryntirion Comprehensive School girls opted for water based activities for their programme.



Cynffig Comprehensive School girls get involved with the 'Us Girls' programme.

## PCSOs check if a 'cold calling' zone has worked

**BRIDGEND County Borough Council's Trading Standards team and South Wales Police have been working together to evaluate a 'Cold Calling Control Zone' which was created last year in Nottage and Rest Bay, Porthcawl.**

The zone, which covers over 270 homes on Anglesey Way, Sandpiper Road and West Park Drive, was set up following complaints from residents about persistent cold calling in the area, as well as burglaries.

The scheme was launched in April 2014, with signs erected in the area and information packs with door stickers issued to residents.

PCSO Leighton Rees said: "One of the objectives of the scheme is to discourage those who use doorstep selling as the opening for distraction burglaries or to make plans for future burglaries. The zone should reduce the fear and threat felt by some householders when the doorbell rings and the caller is unknown".

PCSO Rees and PCSO Jessica Davies recently joined Trading

Standards officers to deliver questionnaires to evaluate how effective the scheme has been.

Representative for the Nottage ward, Coun Norah Clarke, who helped deliver questionnaires, said: "I understand reports of cold calling and burglaries have fallen sharply since the Cold Calling Control Zone was created."

"It is reassuring to know that these zones have a positive impact and the aim of this exercise is to give each resident the opportunity to tell us how the zone is working for them."

"Trading Standards officers will evaluate the data and we will discuss the results at the next Rest Bay and Nottage PACT meeting on Tuesday, March 3. I would encourage as many of the residents as possible to complete and return the questionnaires to the Trading Standards team."

Residents of Nottage and all other areas within the county borough are reminded to contact South Wales Police on 101 to report any aggressive and persistent cold callers, as well as suspicious behaviour.

## Local Needs Scheme good news for local businesses

**BCBC has been allocated £158,000 by the Welsh Government to pass on to local businesses, following a decision to postpone the re-evaluation of National Non-Domestic Rates (NDR).**

At a meeting of the council's cabinet, it was agreed that around 300 properties across the county borough with a rateable value of under £25,000 would benefit from the Bridgend Local Needs Scheme, as long as they are not already receiving any kind of rate relief.

Under the temporary measures, which apply to the 2014/15 financial year, up to £1,000 could be awarded to eligible businesses by the end of March.

NDR, set by the Valuation Office

Agency, is collected by local authorities as a contribution towards the cost of local services. Also known as business rates, they are charged on most non-domestic properties like shops, offices, pubs, warehouses, factories and holiday rental homes or guest houses.

Some properties are exempt from paying rates, such as farm buildings and land, places of public religious worship, and buildings used for the training or welfare of disabled people.

Other properties – such as those occupied by charities – automatically receive 80 per cent relief, while buildings occupied by sporting clubs and non-profit making companies could be eligible for up to 100 per cent.

The deadline for applications is February 28, and all applications will be determined before March 31.

## Who wants to build what and where?

Llanesap UK – 12 detached four-bed dwellings with integral garage.  
**Kingfisher Close, Brackla** – Reduce limbs of Oak trees by no more than 600mm (1988) OBC No 6.  
 Penyfael Church in Wales Primary School – Heol Eglwys, Penyfael – Demolish existing dwelling and replace with new three-bed dwelling.  
 Mr Paul Hebblethwaite – 1 Clos Waterton, Waterton – Orangery extension to side of property.  
 Mr Marvyn James – 12 Shakespear Avenue, Cefn Glas, Bridgend – Proposed car port to front.  
 Mr P Stokes c/o Mr John Matthews, Planning and Development consultant, Anglesey House, 47 Anglesey Way, Porthcawl – Land adjacent 38 Minffrwd Road, Pencoed – Extend standard condition of P/10/298/FUL to extend period to commence works for further five years.  
 Mr Kevin Burke – Tangneffedd, North Cornelly – Ground and first floor extension to west elevation and first floor extension to north elevation.  
 Mr Russell Hughes – 27 Commercial Street, Kenfig Hill – Change of use from sweet shop to photography studio (retrospective).  
 Mohammed a Tufail – 2-4 Heol Dewi Sant (Plot between 2b and 6) Bettws – Two semi-detached four-bed use of 1 New Street to form larger surgery and two storey extension with rear parking space.  
 Mr M J Vowles – Sandford, Bryneglwys Avenue, Porthcawl – Demolish existing dwelling and replace with new three-bed dwelling.  
 Mr C Godbeer – Manor Farm Cottage, Porthcawl – New dwelling to design approved by P/14/50/FUL.  
 Mrs M Hare – Rear Dyffryn, 205 New Road, Porthcawl – Two bed dwelling (resubmission of refusal P/14/638/FUL).  
 Mr C Jenkins – Wood View, Derwen – Single storey and first floor extensions and detached garage.  
 Mr Joe Goldoni – Land adjacent 8 Heol y Foelas, Cefn Glas – Relax condition 5 and 5 of P/14/149/FUL relating to code for sustainable homes.  
 Mr Stan Davies – 32 Wood Street, Maesteg – Retention of access onto Garn Road, from 32 Wood Street.  
 Mr Richard Crawley – 110 Heol West Plas, Coity – Two storey side extension (convert ext garage to provide larger kitchen, store to front and two bedrooms above).  
 Mrs Karen Ajax-Lewis – New Street Surgery, 1-3 New Street, Aberkenfig – Change of use of 1 New Street to form larger surgery and two storey extension with rear parking space.  
 Styleforce Limited – 11 Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle – Remove condition 1 of 97/795 to allow 40 per cent of retail floor area to be used as Class A1 to facilitate sale of clothing.  
 Mr Richard Davies – Claren House, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr – Proposed two storey extension to rear.  
 Mr Adam Jones – 11 Greenfields Avenue, Bridgend – Single storey rear/side extension.  
 Windflow Hammer Limited – Mynydd Pen y Graig Wind Farm, Rhondda Cynon Taf – Screening opinion for wind turbine 60m to tip (38m hub).  
 Coastal Housing Group and BCBC – Land at The Rhwi multi storey car park walkway bridge and entrance, Bridgend – Demolish and rebuild car park; erect five storey residential/commercial block (class A1/A2/A3 and 28 dwellings with parking).  
 Miss Kyra Blair – 30 Tremains Court, Brackla – Single storey side extension and porch – amended description and plans.  
 Mrowka RB Ltd – 8a Derwen Road, Bridgend – Installation of roller shutter.

## HELP THE LONELY

**RESIDENTS are being invited to Sarn Lifelong Learning Centre on February 18 from 10am – 1pm to learn how you can make a difference to someone's day by helping isolated people over 50 throughout the borough, as part of the Lottery-funded 'Community Companions Over-50s' scheme.**

Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) is recruiting and training volunteers aged 16 and over to befriend older people.

For further details, contact BAVO on 01656 810 400 or email bavo@bavo.org.uk.

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## Council to cut back on trimming grass verges

**ROADSIDE grass verges and open green spaces will be cut less frequently this year throughout Bridgend County Borough.**

Cabinet members from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have agreed that, during the growing season from April until the end of September, roadside verges will be cut every nine weeks rather than every six weeks. Grass in open spaces will be cut on a four-weekly cycle rather than every three weeks.

As part of measures which will help to save the council £132,000, cabinet members have also agreed to appoint an external contractor to carry out the grass cutting.

Cemeteries, sports pitches, bowling greens and cricket squares will

not be affected by the changes and will be cut as often as they have been in previous years.

Coun Phil White, BCBC's cabinet member for communities, said: "As residents are aware, the current financial situation is such that we need to make substantial financial savings while ensuring that we maintain priority services for local people."

"We have therefore decided that the grass will be cut less often on roadside verges and in

open spaces this year. Sight lines at junctions will be kept clear for all road users, and the situation will be monitored throughout the summer to check that the new arrangements aren't causing any safety hazards."

The council has also identified several locations where it will plant seeds to provide displays of brightly coloured wild flowers while some grass will be left to grow long in an effort to encourage biodiversity.

*You can find The GEM online at [bridgend-today.co.uk](http://bridgend-today.co.uk); or follow us on Twitter - @gem\_news*

# Tory regional AM's meeting to discuss town hall fears

**SHADOW Welsh culture and heritage minister, Suzy Davies, has visited Maesteg Town Hall to discuss its future, in the light of changes being brought in by Bridgend County Borough Council.**

At the hall Mrs Davies, a Welsh Conservative regional AM, was met by hall chairman Coun Gareth Howells and vice chairman Coun Leighton Thomas (see picture, right).

Mrs Davies, who was accompanied by Jane March, the Conservative parliamentary candidate for Ogmore, wanted to discuss the impact of the decision by BCBC to put all cultural buildings and

libraries under the control of a new not-for-profit organisation which is being set up. This will also encompass the Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl and Blaengarw Workmen's Hall as well as Bryngarw House and country park.

She said: "I was very grateful to both of them for meeting and talking through these changes, as far as it will affect the town hall. I know these are early days and some details are not yet clear, but I understand how iconic the town hall is to the people of the Llynfi Valley.

"Apart from its substantial physical presence in the town centre, it is also at the heart of the area's cultural and social life. It is literally where everything happens – whether it be a concert given by local choirs, a play or musical staged by the

town's dramatic and operative societies or a dance. The Town Hall was built 130 years ago by the miners of the valley and it's important that their legacy is protected.

"I left reassured that those who now run it as volunteers will ensure that it survives well into this new century."

Jane March said that she had been impressed with the strong community feeling of Maesteg and the entire valley.

She added: "I was given the impression that people would be prepared to fight every inch of the way to ensure the survival of this fine hall. It is an impressive building which provides first-rate facilities that enable cultural organisations to flourish, because they have a suitable venue at their disposal. That is very important."



## Volunteers are needed for 'companions' plan

**SARN Life Long Learning Centre is holding an event on Wednesday, February 18 from 10am to 1pm – to help isolated people over 50 in Bridgend county borough, as part of the Big Lottery-funded 'Community Companions' over-50s scheme.**

Led by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) in partnership with a range of statutory and voluntary organisations, BAVO is recruiting and training volunteers aged 16 and over to befriend older people who may feel isolated and lonely for a number of reasons.

A spokeswoman said: "Imagine going days or weeks without seeing

somebody or not being able to get out of the house? An hour of your time to visit someone or help them take part in community activities can make a huge difference to their day.

"By becoming a volunteer befriender, you can help older people meet others, improve their access to local services and improve their overall health and wellbeing.

"An hour of your day really goes a long way! By becoming a volunteer befriender you will experience first hand the difference that you can make to people's lives. You will make new friends and learn new skills that will boost your own self-confidence."

For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400; email bavo@bavo.org.uk.

## Porthcawl author's first novel mixes Marlowe, myth... and a dash of menace!

IT strikes me as pretty good that Porthcawl has two authors who have each found publishers prepared to back them and bring out a significant number of books.

Robert Minihinnick, now 62, leads the way, with 14 – a mix of poetry collections, essays and a novel, with his first published at the age of 25.

However, at his current rate of productivity, Tom Anderson, who has just published his fourth book, the *Actaeon Tide*, looks set to overtake the elder statesman.

Tom teaches in Cardiff now but it hasn't slowed his work rate. His first was published at the age of 26 (he is 34 now) another is due out in May, and his publisher recently said yes to a second novel, based on the plot synopsis.

The *Actaeon Tide* is his first novel – a tale that starts as a routine crime story, but shifts gear into Stephen King territory – and it does mark a departure for the young writer.

Tom's previous books have drawn on his passion for surfing, and he used that to fashion a fascinating mix – very fine travel writing while also explaining the complexities of the sport, as he chased waves around the world, doing an excellent job of articulating the hold it has on its devotees.

The first book, *Riding the Magic Carpet*, sold well enough to spawn two more, but now he is in search of a wider audience.

Having said all that, the narrator of the story is a private investigator, grudgingly doing that job so that he can save enough money to go somewhere warm and surf.

As the action is set in a town that seems a lot like

Book review by  
**PHILIP IRWIN**



Tom Anderson, reading at the Porthcawl book launch in the Green Room, Sussed. The venue's monthly poetry and literary evenings are becoming very popular.

Porthcawl, and as the prevailing weather in this fictional town is either freezing in winter, or bleak and wet in spring and summer, you can see the attraction.

Philip Marlowe and Jim Rockford plied their trade in sunny Los Angeles, but Welsh detectives have to turn their collar up to keep out the sleet. If you've seen S4C's *Hinterland*, then you get the picture!

A good guideline for any book is to read the first page-and-a-half. After all, if you don't like the style, it will be a struggle from then on.

Try this with Tom's book and you will want to stay with it. Although the meaning doesn't become clear until later, it's a vivid piece of writing that lets you know that he can write, and it makes you wonder where it is heading.

Ironically, the success of the opening leaves Tom with a problem. He has a tale to tell, characters to introduce, and a storyline that the reader, naturally, wants to see kick on. Tom's desire to repeat that opening page, with more

pieces of 'writing', tends to get in the way of the story.

That story concerns two private investigators, one old hand who is an ex-copper, and the aforementioned wannabee surfer. They head out into the Vale of Glamorgan, to an isolated house where a woman is convinced that dark forces are planning to do her harm.

If it sounds like a 'Gastlight' plot – someone trying to drive the victim mad – it soon veers off when the senior private eye decides to call in a police psychic, Alys, who kicks the plot forward and also off at a tangent.

It's not wise to give away any more of the plot, but Tom succeeds in keeping the pages turning, and he shows that he has mastered the art of instilling an atmosphere of fear and dread into the narrative.

It's not the finished article, but *The Actaeon Tide* is a fine piece of storytelling, which is strong on atmosphere.

It marks Tom Anderson out as a writer to watch.

## Assembly cash gives boost to council scheme

**BRIDGEND County Borough Council's Communities First programme has been given a grant by the Welsh Government to extend it for another year.**

BCBC will distribute £1,738,317 between three Communities First clusters in 2015/16.

In addition, nearly £60,000 has been made available for the 'Every Child Counts' project at Oldcastle, Pen-y-Bont, Tremains, Brackla and Litchard primary schools, which aims to help pupils who are struggling with mathematics.

At a meeting last week, the cabinet also backed the continuation of a financial well-being contract, which is commissioned by the council and delivered by Bridgend Citizens'

Advice Bureau. In tandem with the Welsh Government, it has authorised council officers to explore plans for Bridgend to pilot a new European Social Fund (ESF) project, to support adult and youth employment.

## Raspberry demand has Sony gearing up!

**PENCOED-based Sony UK Technology Centre (UKTEC) has announced it has more than quadrupled its production of the latest Raspberry Pi, a credit-card-sized single-board computer.**

It is increasing production from 18,000 units to 80,000 units per week to cope with the expected level of demand of the next-generation Raspberry Pi 2, launched world-wide this week.

The Raspberry Pi has been developed by non-profit Raspberry Pi Foundation, and is a credit-card sized computer designed to stimulate young people's interest in computer programming and electronics.

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# Princess Royal joins RNLI celebration



Lifeboat operations manager Phil Missen (left) meets the Princess Royal. Picture by David Williams/RNLI.

**A ROYAL visitor called into Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat Station on Monday to help it celebrate half a century of saving lives at sea.**

Princess Anne met the volunteer crew who were hailed the busiest in Wales during 2014, having launched 73 and rescued 60 people.

In 1965 the RNLI re-established a lifeboat service at Porthcawl and introduced one of its new experimental inshore lifeboats, which was a great success. A volunteer crew was formed and as the area grew in popularity and people were spending an increasing amount of leisure time at the coast, demand for the service grew.

Volunteer crews at Porthcawl experienced their busiest ever year in 2014, statistics released in January revealed a massive

49 per cent increase in lifeboat launches during the year. The number of people rescued during 2014 doubled compared with the previous year.

During the visit, the Princess Royal was introduced to Porthcawl RNLI station chairman John Abraham and lifeboat operations manager Phil Missen. Mr Missen introduced her to a number of volunteer crew, who saved 16 lives in 2014.

"The Princess Royal enjoyed taking a closer look at Porthcawl's Atlantic 85 lifeboat *Rose of the Shires* and D-class lifeboat *Jean Ryall*," said Phil Missen, RNLI lifeboat operations manager.

"From being named the busiest station in Wales to having a royal visitor, it really has been an exciting start to the year for Porthcawl RNLI. As volunteers, the crew give up so

much of their time to help save lives at sea, especially as 2014 was so very busy. It fills our crew with a real sense of pride to know their efforts appreciated and to be congratulated by a Royal visitor was really quite something.

"It was an honour to welcome the Princess Royal to our station as such a significant time in our station's history. We've come a long way in the last 50 years, but one thing that remains unchanged is not only the commitment and dedication of the crew, but the people who work so hard behind the scenes to fundraise and keep the RNLI charity afloat."

The station's president Peter Scott introduced Princess Anne to the operations committee, and shop volunteers also enjoyed an opportunity to meet their special guest.

She unveiled a plaque to

commemorate the anniversary and re-founding of Porthcawl RNLI and was then presented with a framed photograph of the station.

The visit is the start of packed calendar for Porthcawl RNLI during their anniversary year. Tickets are currently on sale for the station's 50th anniversary ball at the Grand Pavilion on Friday, June 26.

Marj Abraham, a member of the Porthcawl RNLI fundraising guild who has raised £60,000 over the last 14 years raffling beautiful handmade quilts is already planning a special design to mark the momentous occasion.

For more information, or to support fundraising during the station's anniversary year, please contact RNLI community fundraising manager, Jen Abell on 07831 109770.

## Ogmore MP in call for Tamil inquiry



Huw Irranca-Davies MP and Mr Duraithasan Subramaniam and Mr Vethanayagam Sanjeevathushan deliver the petition to Downing Street.

**THE MP for Ogmore, Huw Irranca-Davies and two Tamil constituents have delivered a petition to Prime Minister David Cameron at Downing Street calling on the UK Government to support an international inquiry into Sri Lanka's treatment of the Tamil people.**

Mr Duraithasan Subramaniam and Mr Vethanayagam Sanjeevathushan, from the Ogmore constituency joined Mr Irranca-Davies to deliver the petition signed by Tamils and their supporters from the south Wales valleys.

This is the latest stage in a long campaign by UK Tamils and their allies to pressure the Government to ensure a full and open international inquiry into human rights abuses in Sri Lanka.

For many years the Sri Lanka

Government has been accused of oppressing the Tamil people.

"While the UK Government has made supportive noises in the past this petition is designed to keep the pressure on. It is hoped it will ensure that the Tamil people in the UK and across the world are given the justice they deserve," said Mr Irranca-Davies.

"I was proud to walk through the gates of Downing Street with Duraithasan and Vethanayagam. The campaign for a full and open international inquiry into human rights abuses in Sri Lanka is a global sign of the beliefs in human dignity, rights and justice.

"However, it is also a local campaign, one which directly affects the lives of my Tamil constituents; their friends and families. The onus is now on the Prime Minister to respond to our petition and commit his Government to fully backing the international inquiry."

## Tories' choice for Ogmore



**A KENT woman with "strong farming roots" has been selected by Welsh Conservatives to stand in the Ogmore constituency at the general election.**

Jane March (above, centre) is hoping to meet upland farmers to "explore their problems", particularly those in the dairy sector.

She said: "My father had a smallholding and we kept sheep, so I also understand the issues in this sector as well.

"I studied dairy and food technology at agricultural college and then did

business studies at Southampton College before working as a marketing assistant with a fruit growing co-operative."

She lives with her husband Richard on a farm in Kent, where they keep sheep and beef cattle, as well as growing cereal. They have two sons (one graduated from Cardiff University last year).

She added: "I know that Ogmore has been an industrial constituency with a strong coal mining heritage, but I am also conscious of the need to develop and nurture modern industries to provide the employment we need in future."

## Scheme promotes benefits of breast feeding



Mums and babies at the support group.

**MUMS in Cornelly have been hearing about a new initiative that encourages them to give their newborns the precious gift of breast milk.**

A new campaign, 'Your Baby's First Gift', has been launched by midwives across Bridgend, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot to promote the long-term health benefits that can be gained by a child having at least one feed of breast milk during their first few days.

Mums and pregnant women who attend the 'Parents in Partnership South Wales'

breast feeding support group at the Cornelly Integrated Children's Centre were among the first to hear about the new initiative when they met for their weekly Wednesday morning gathering.

The idea for the campaign came from Leanne Thomas, a Flying Start midwife based in Bettws.

She said: "We know that a new-born baby's immune system is not nearly as good as an adult's or even an older child's. We also know that breast milk is full of good antibodies and antibacterial properties, and reduces the risk of chest infections and tummy upset, so breast

feeding can make a massive difference."

Cornelly is one of eight Flying Start areas in Bridgend county borough, where eligible parents can benefit from the Welsh Government's targeted Early Years programme to gain access to an enhanced health visitor service, free quality childcare for 2-3 year olds, parenting support, and help with early language development.

In addition to Cornelly, Flying Start services can be found in Sam, Blackmill, Wildmill, Brackla, Cefn Glas, Maesteg and Bettws, while a centre will also open in Lewestown soon.

## Bridgend AM is told of need for new health care centre

**THE Porthcawl SHOUT chairman, Gary Victor, welcomed the local Assembly member, Carwyn Jones, to its February meeting.**

During a wide-ranging question and answer debate that lasted over an hour, Mr Jones updated members, on the Health Service, local government reorganisation, educational issues, the new Blue Badge criteria, as well as the Welsh Government's intentions for Cardiff Airport.

Members expressed concerns about Severn Bridge tolls. While the discussions were far reaching, members left the Mr Jones in no doubt that their priority

concerns were still the Health Service, and particularly the urgent need for a modern new health care centre for Porthcawl.

It was also accepted that Porthcawl's regeneration had been totally unsatisfactory to date.

Mr Jones welcomed the recent announcement of the harbour development and the prospect of a new state-of-the-art maritime centre, as well as the long awaited redevelopment of the Jennings Building.

Later, Zoe Wallace, acting head of primary care and planning confirmed that the board see Porthcawl as a priority and will proceed once a suitable site has been identified.



Photos by Keith E Morgan.

Gary Victor and Clive Mort with Carwyn Jones AM.



Zoe Wallace addresses the meeting.

# 320-MILE CYCLE RIDE WILL GIVE FUNDING A BOOST... From Cardiff to Paris – to support injured Welsh international Owen



ABOVE: James (left) and Matthew will cycle from Cardiff to Paris to support Welsh international Owen Williams.



Wales and England were in perfect harmony during a fundraiser for the #StayStrongForOws campaign. From left to right England's Stuart Lancaster and Will Carling, Wales' coach Warren Gatland and Welsh legend Jonathan Davies.

(PICTURE COURTESY OF THE HUW EVANS AGENCY)

## Holly volunteers on Cambodian project to help fight poverty



Holly (second left) lining up with the staff who prepared the Big Sunday Lunch. Pictures by Keith E Morgan

RIGHT: Holly with RAFA hosts, stewards Sarah and Chris Prescott.

**HOLLY ASPEY (25)** from Porthcawl, will travel to Cambodia on March 3, to help fight poverty in Stung Treng province.

She will team up with Cambodian volunteers to tackle problems facing the community, after getting a place on the government-funded International Citizen Service (ICS).

The scheme offers young people aged 18 to 25 the chance to learn about team-working and leadership on projects around the world. On return to the UK, ICS volunteers undertake an 'Action at Home Project', that benefits their own community.

Holly said: "In order to participate in this volunteering project of a lifetime I need to raise £800 for the charity that

is fighting global poverty across the world through volunteers, VSO (<http://www.vso.org.uk>).

"Fundraising for VSO will show my commitment to the project and hopefully inspire other young people to apply to volunteer overseas and develop on a personal and professional level – bringing home skills, confidence and ideas that they can put to use in their own communities in Wales."

"On Sunday (February 8) I raised £370 from a raffle and

donations thanks to the RAFA club in Porthcawl holding 'The Big Sunday Lunch,' where over 50 people enjoyed a lunch and desert for £9.95. The generous staff at the RAFA donated £3.50 per meal towards my fundraising."

To sponsor Holly Aspey, visit <https://www.justgiving.com/Holly-Aspey2> or text ASPY50 £2, £5, £10 to 70070. To find out more about ICS or to apply, visit [www.volunteers.org](http://www.volunteers.org) or call 0208 780 7400.

**TWO local men aim to raise funds for seriously-injured Welsh rugby international Owen Williams by cycling the 320 miles from Cardiff to Paris.**

Matthew Lewis from Barry Island and James Donne from Canton, were keen to boost Owen's recovery from a serious spinal injury which was sustained in a Blues' match last year against Asia Pacific Dragons.

Owen (23) was initially treated in Singapore before being flown back to Wales and the Welsh Spinal Injuries and

Neurological Rehabilitation Unit at Rookwood Hospital. James explained:

"Matthew and I aim to raise funds by riding from Cardiff to Paris this summer, along with players, sponsors and friends of the Cardiff Blues rugby team."

"Last June, Owen injured his cervical vertebrae and spinal cord and lost the movement in the upper and lower portions of his body."

"Due to the excellent level of care he has received at Rookwood Hospital, he has gained good movement in his left arm and slight movement in his right."

Owen remains at the hospital while he

### Report by TIM CHAPMAN

continues his long-term rehabilitation and recovery.

Among the Blues' players taking part in the cycle ride will be Cory Allen from Barry.

James said: "On June 3, we will start the ride from 'BT Sport Cardiff Arms Park'. It is 320 miles and will take four days."

"We'll be stopping at various rugby clubs and social venues along the way, and will end by riding right up to the Eiffel Tower in Paris."

"Matthew and I would be hugely grateful for any help



ABOVE: Owen Williams of Wales and The Blues.

given with the ride, whether it is donations, or help in spreading news of our campaign, through tweets or 'shares' on social media, or just word of

mouth."

The lads have set up a just giving page: [www.justgiving.co.uk/JDML](http://www.justgiving.co.uk/JDML).

Matthew added: "If people donate, please tick the 'Gift Aid' box, because we will then receive 25p for every pound donated."

A total of £36,000 was raised at a special lunch held at 'BT Sport Cardiff Arms Park' ahead of the Wales v England clash, with special guests including Wales' coach Warren Gatland and England coach Stuart Lancaster. More than 500 guests attended the event.

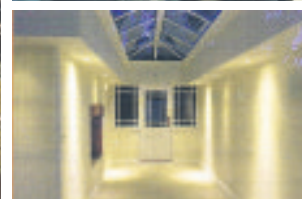
To keep up to speed as to how Owen is getting on, go to: #StayStrongForOws.



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# ROYAL VISITOR HELPS TO CELEBRATE RNLI'S HALF-CENTURY IN PORTHCAWL



ABOVE: A welcoming party made up of local schoolchildren.



Porthcawl Mayor Coun Sean Aspy with RNLI members.



Article and photographs by **KEITH E MORGAN**

It was a special day for Porthcawl RNLI on Monday (February 9) when the Princess Royal came to help celebrate its 50th anniversary. (See picture on page 1).

Local historian Keith E Morgan took these photographs of the visit and also reflects on the history of the RNLI station in the town.

**T**HE royal visit was to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the re-introduction of a RNLI Lifeboat station in Porthcawl in 1965.

The first Porthcawl Lifeboat House, adjoining No 12, Marine Terrace on the Esplanade at the entrance to Knights Arms Square, was opened in April 1860 on ground given by Lady Windsor at a cost of £120. This boathouse is still there.

The first lifeboat, the six-oared *Good Deliverance* was inaugurated on April 29, 1860, and had to man-handled down the slipway on a wheeled carriage in order to launch it.

In 1872, a new bigger lifeboat, the *Chafyn Grove*, was bought for the station. This new boat required the existing boathouse to be enlarged. A harness room was provided to store equipment for the six horses that were needed to launch and recover this larger lifeboat.

In 1887, the station received yet another new lifeboat, the *Speedwell*. However, this new boat was used very little, with only nine launches made before it was decided to close the station in 1902.

Porthcawl Lifeboat Station was closed due to the cessation of commercial traffic to the docks. Since the majority of launches were for commercial traffic, it was deemed unnecessary to have a lifeboat station

in Porthcawl and the boathouse was sold. In 1965, the RNLI reopened the Porthcawl Lifeboat Station and placed on service, an experimental D-class Inflatable Inshore Rescue Lifeboat No 52 which was designed to give a rapid response to recreational water users around the coast.

Due to the RNLI selling the old boathouse in 1903 for the grand sum of £160, the new lifeboat had to be housed in a lean-to next to Jennings Building leased from Porthcawl Urban District Council.

The new station soon established itself and saw a succession of D-class lifeboats before the first Atlantic class boat was delivered to Porthcawl in 1996.

In 1996, the RNLI decided that Porthcawl needed a larger boat and a new purpose built boathouse was constructed to house a brand new B Class Atlantic 75-class boat named *Giles* and Talus MB-4H Tractor launch tractor together with a Do-Do carriage.

An Atlantic 21-class boat *Bienwatch* served the station in 1996 for a short period whilst the new boat was being built. In 2009, the lifeboat was upgraded to an Atlantic 85-class boat. This later boat, named the *Rose of the Shires*, has a crew of four.

Over the last 50 years, the lifeboat crews, all volunteers, have been honoured with 29 awards for gallantry. This list includes a Silver Medal presented to Stuart Roberts in 1995 as well as two Bronze Medals.

One awarded to Helmsman Nick Beale in 2002 with the other, the first to be awarded to a lifeboat woman in 116 years, to Helmsman Aileen Jones in 2004.

Well done to everyone involved in the RNLI service!



# Carriage driving skills are on show at society event held at Pencoed College

THE South Wales Carriage Driving Society held an event at Pencoed College on Sunday, February 8.

Those taking part had to negotiate a series of cones and obstacles.

Glyn Evans was on hand to capture the skills of the drivers and their horses.

## PHOTOS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

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ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk

Telephone

07791 228684

www.ffotoimage.co.uk



## Snake, fox, owl – and a Gruffalo!



Nottage Primary School reception class pupils were entranced by the Gruffalo display.

SCRAMBLED snake, roasted fox and owl ice-cream were all on the menu this week at Nottage Primary School in Porthcawl, as pupils tucked into the popular children's book *The Gruffalo*.

The reception class enjoyed activities and adventures linked to the much-loved monster, with a 'deep dark wood' and cave being created in the corner of a classroom for pupils to explore.

Gruffalo author Julia Donaldson wrote 11 of the top 20 most-borrowed junior books from libraries throughout

Bridgend county borough during the last year. As well as *The Gruffalo*, her other modern classics include *The Gruffalo's Child*, *The Snail and the Whale*, *Room on the Broom* and *Stick Man*.

While Julia Donaldson penned 11 of the most popular junior titles in 2014, the most-borrowed book was *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel* by Jeff Kinney. Other top reads that closely followed included *Demon Dentist* by David Walliams in second place while Julia Donaldson's *Superworm* and *Charlie Cook's Favourite Book* were third and fourth respectively and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck* was the fifth favourite among borrowers.

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# Vale children's hospice is thrilled with new kitchen



PICTURED: James Sommerin, David Kelman, Julia McCarthy, David Haines-Knight, Stephen Terry and Hywel Jones.

EVER since Ty Hafan opened in 1999, the kitchen and dining area has been a hive of activity and is described by families and staff as the 'hub' of the building.

Whether families are enjoying a home-made cooked meal or a member of staff is having a comforting cup of tea, it has always been a well-loved area. But, after 15 years of use, the kitchen had started looking tired and in need of an upgrade.

Today, the kitchen has been completely transformed thanks to tireless fundraising by the public and donations from local businesses. The £140,000 refurbishment offers state-of-the-art catering facilities,

opportunities for cookery therapy and a separate domestic kitchen specifically designed to provide families with greater independence while resident at the hospice.

Jayne Saunders, director of care at Ty Hafan, said: "We aim to create a homely atmosphere for our families which is why the new kitchen is a wonderful addition to the hospice. The refurbishment provides a positive and uplifting environment and the feedback we've had from families has been fantastic."

"We are delighted with the new kitchen and can't thank our supporters enough for making it happen."

separate, smaller kitchen for parents and families to enjoy.

B&M Stores, Dow Corning, Next, Ray of Light Trust, Sigma 3, St James's Place Foundation, RWE Npower, Wallace and Gromit Foundation and Zurich Community Trust have all made contributions to the kitchen refurbishment.

Four top chefs who took part in Chefs' Night Out – a gala dinner which raised £125,000 for the cause last weekend – enjoyed a visit to Ty Hafan and were incredibly impressed with the new kitchen when they decorated cakes with children and families.

It costs £3.7m a year to provide the charity's state-of-the-art facilities at Sully and its support services to families out in the community. To make a donation please visit [www.tyhafan.org](http://www.tyhafan.org).



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# STEVEDORES FINED FOR WORKER'S SEVERE INJURIES

A GLAMORGAN stevedoring company has been fined for breaking safety legislation, after an employee suffered severe leg injuries in falling from a trailer.

## Turning derelict houses into homes gets boost

A SCHEME to help turn 1,115 empty private sector properties into homes in Cardiff, the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Merthyr has received a funding boost as part of a new £20 million Welsh Government investment to improve housing stock.

Communities and Tackling Poverty Minister Lesley Griffiths AM has announced the home improvement loans and houses into homes schemes will each receive £10 million to bring many derelict and uninhabitable properties back into use.

A recent report showed an increase in

the number of empty private sector properties brought back into use across Wales. To date, 4,471 empty and run-down properties have been turned into homes so far this Assembly term, only 529 short of the Welsh Government's ambitious 5,000 target for the whole term, which runs until May 2016. Houses into Homes has played a big part in helping to achieve this.

National strategic indicators show that 1,115 empty private sector properties in Cardiff, the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Merthyr, have been turned into homes so far during this Assembly term - Vale 460, Bridgend 146, RCT 216, Cardiff 210, and Merthyr 83.

Nigel Preece (58) of Pyle, Bridgend, was unloading steel coils from a flatbed trailer when he fell 1.3 metres, sustaining two broken legs.

Mr Preece's employer, Briton Ferry Stevedoring, appeared before Swansea Magistrates on February 4 in a prosecution brought by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) following the incident.

The court heard that Mr Preece had to stand on the trailer and feed a lifting strap through the centre of the coils so they could be taken off the vehicle. After lifting a coil, he replaced the loose board on the trailer floor which covered the well used to hold the coil in place during transport.

On this occasion, the board was not properly placed and when Mr Preece stood on it, the board moved causing him to lose his balance and fall off the trailer, breaking both his legs above the knee.

He had to undergo a 10-and-a-half hour operation and was treated in intensive care for one week. He was unable to walk for three months without support, and it was six months before he could walk unaided.

An investigation by HSE found the company had failed to make sure the work was carried out safely, or that there were measures in place to prevent or reduce the effects of any fall.

Briton Ferry Stevedoring Ltd of Giants Wharf, Briton Ferry, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £13,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,497.

HSE Inspector, Steve Richardson, speaking after the hearing, said: "Mr Preece suffered extreme pain and serious injuries and could have lost his life, because his employer did not take simple measures to plan, manage or control the work he was asked to carry out.

"Falls from height are the biggest cause of workplace deaths and there is no excuse for employers failing to safeguard workers who have to work at height."

Further information about working safely at height can be found on the HSE website at [www.hse.gov.uk/falls](http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls).

## 'Make a pledge to preserve our heritage'



PS Waverley, formerly PS Barry.

THE news item 'Appeal for pledges to secure part of Barry's heritage' in The GEM of February 5, tells the remarkable story of artifacts from the paddle steamer Barry, recovered by a diver from the bottom of the North Sea, where the steamer was bombed and sunk on July 5, 1941.

The photograph (above) of the Barry, by then renamed Waverley, was taken in the 1930s.

It would be splendid if these historic items from Barry's 'own' paddle steamer were to be on display in the town.

I hope that many will feel able to make a

small contribution to their purchase.

At present, pledges are being taken and our family business, the Silver Star Decorating and DIY store on Barry Docks, has made an initial pledge of £25.

Pledges can be made to:

[kgmaritime.research@googlemail.com](mailto:kgmaritime.research@googlemail.com) or those not online are welcome to send a brief note to me and I will forward them to Mr JT Greenway, who is leading the effort to raise the necessary funds.

TERRY SYLVESTER, Gwalia Buildings, Barry Docks CF62 5QR (Tel 01446 745444).

## Travellers are invited to free holiday market at the airport



CARDIFF AIRPORT is holding a free holiday market at Rhose on February 22, and families, couples and solo travellers alike are invited to go along to see just how many places they can reach from Wales' national airport.

The event is being held in partnership with Regal Travel and there'll be more than 30 operators displaying their wares, such as KLM, Vueling Airlines, P&O Cruises and Newmarket Holidays.

Regal Travel's holiday experts, based across south Wales will be on hand with special offers on the day, to provide

free advice and take bookings. Plus, everyone who attends will be offered the chance to enter a free prize draw to win flights to Orlando!

The holiday market will be open from 11am to 3pm; each visitor will be given a 'passport' when they arrive, to be stamped by exhibitors.

It will give them entry to the free prize draw, for a chance to win two return flights from Cardiff to Orlando with Thomas Cook Airlines.

Other exhibitors include the airport's executive lounge and Nuance (the tax and duty free shop) with a selection of goods that can be bought on the day. Family entertainment will also be provided.

## Cloudy2Clear Windows - Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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## Dyffryn Gardens staff's Porthcawl beach clean-up

The Dyffryn Gardens staff litter picking at Coney beach.



**D Y F F R Y N** Gardens staff have cleaned up Coney beach in Porthcawl to help celebrate 50 years of the successful coastline campaign 'Project Neptune.'

This was launched in 1965 and is the trust's longest running appeal. It is raising funds to help the charity and acquire and look after more than 740 miles of coastline in Wales, England and Northern Ireland. So far the campaign has raised

over £65 million.

The task was the brainchild of a gardener at Dyffryn Gardens, Dan Staniforth, who regularly visits the beach to surf. "I try and do some litter picking before work, but it's amazing how quickly the litter builds up. Besides being unsightly to visitors to the beach it is also harmful to the bird and animal species that live here so we wanted to do something about it."

The Dyffryn team will be at Coney Beach in Porthcawl again in May from 10am to 1pm, and are asking people to go along and lend the team a hand. Anyone wanting to get involved in the project should email [dyffryn@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:dyffryn@nationaltrust.org.uk) for more information.

## The panto season is over... oh no, it isn't!

THE Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs presents its annual pantomime competition between February 12-14 at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl.

It sees members aged between 10-26 from Glamorgan's seven clubs go head to head to showcase their talents.

The winning cast will go forward to represent Glamorgan in the Wales finals at the Swansea Grand Theatre in March and from that, the winning team go forward to the national finals at Torquay in April.

The competition starts with performances from Wick and Maendy. The second evening will see Bridgend,

Llantrisant and Gelligaer take to the stage, while the third evening will see Gower and Neath perform, followed by the final adjudication and results.

Glamorgan YFC county chairman, Miss Kath Campbell, said: "The standard of competition is always very high in Glamorgan and never fails to entertain. I would, therefore, strongly encourage families to come along to enjoy an extension to the traditional pantomime season and experience the range of singing and acting talents within Glamorgan YFC."

Curtain up at 7pm each night. For more information, contact county organiser, Gwyneth Thomas, on 07779 331839 or by email [glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk](mailto:glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk).

## JAMES SCOOPS THE REGIONAL APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

**J A M E S** BREARLEY (20) from Bridgend, came up trumps at the EEF/Aldermore Future Manufacturing Awards, where he won the outstanding performance by a third year apprentice award, sponsored by JAM Recruitment.

James, who works in Barry for Dow Corning, beat off competition from five other shortlisted apprentices

after impressing judges with his dedication, determination and drive.

The apprentice awards, now in their 65th year celebrate a long tradition of apprenticeships in Wales, as well as recognising individual achievements.

James said: "I'm delighted to have won this award, especially after being up against some other incredibly talented and dedicated apprentices. It has been an eye-opener, and equally terrifying and inspiring to see the success and strength of

the other shortlisted apprentices - as far as I'm concerned, we're all winners."

"I just hope that my success so far makes other local young people think seriously about becoming an apprentice too."

**LEGAL ADVICE**  
LEGAL advice will be available at The Age Connect Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, February 17 (10am - 12 midday). Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

## YFC walk (the boards) like an Egyptian!

IN recent months, club nights at Maendy YFC have focused on rehearsals for the annual Glamorgan Federation YFC drama competition, which this year takes the form a pantomime.

From dancing and singing to comedy and tricks, this year's production, entitled 'Camels and Guile upon the Nile', is set to be an Egyptian-themed showstopper.

Club chairman, Heather Jarvis, said: "This competition is a wonderful opportunity for the whole club to work together. From young members competing for the very first time, to the

retirement of golden oldie, Ieuan Rosser, who will model the Dame's designer clothes for the last time this year, everyone plays their part.

"The hard work that takes place behind the scenes is worth it to see the members perform and enjoy such an experience."

The competition at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl between February 12-14, will see the seven YFC clubs in Glamorgan, made up of members aged 10-26, go head to head to represent the county at the Wales Finals in March.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact county organiser, Mrs Gwyneth Thomas, on 07779 331839 or email [glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk](mailto:glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk).

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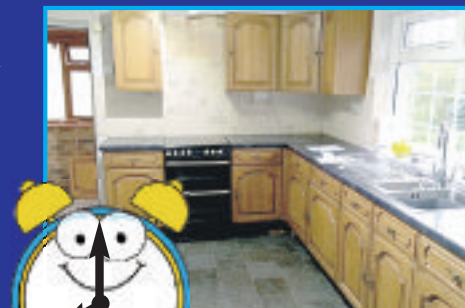
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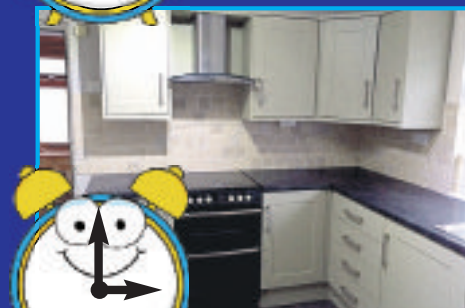
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# Senedd votes to stop fracking – if it gets the power to do so!

LAST week, the Welsh Government backed a Plaid Cymru proposal to declare a moratorium on fracking – but it will have no force until Wales gets the necessary power devolved from Westminster.

The Plaid Cymru candidate for the Vale, Coun Ian Johnson, welcomed the vote in the Senedd,

which was 37–16 in favour. The moratorium would enable concerns over the technique's safety to be examined.

The Vale has been at the heart of debates about the safety and ethics of hydraulic fracturing, or 'fracking', since early 2011 when plans were put forward for test drilling in Llandow.

Since then, other plans have also been made to drill near the village of Llantrithyd.

Coun Johnson said: "The next step is that we must ensure the Welsh Government has the powers to carry out this policy, because those powers are apparently still with the government in Westminster".

He added: "I would much rather that we invested in clean, green renewables rather than fossil fuels like the shale gas that comes from fracking".

The Welsh Liberal Democrats supported the move, and are calling on the Welsh Government to issue a new Technical Advice Note (TAN) to set out the environmental and health standards expected of fracking operations, enabling local planning authorities to reject applications for fracking unless it is proven safe to do so.

Eluned Parrott, Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales Central said: "The environmental and health risks of fracking cannot be ignored, and the scientific evidence to show that fracking is safe simply does not exist."

"Furthermore, it seems likely that shale gas extraction would increase both short and long-term greenhouse gas emission rates and, in the context of climate change, this makes it unjustifiable."

"With the number of test drilling sites already approved in the Vale of Glamorgan and RCT, it is important that the Welsh Government is proactive on this issue".

Unsurprisingly, after the Senedd voted, the Wales Green Party said in a statement that a vote for the Greens in forthcoming elections would be a vote against fracking, permanently in Wales.

## Council says 'thank you'

AT a meeting of Barry Town Council's amenities committee on Monday, February 2, a special presentation was organised for Simon Morgan of Mossfords.

Simon donated a boulder with an inscription to commemorate 125 years of Merthyr Dyfan cemetery – situated at the entrance to the new cemetery extension and, as a token of thanks, an engraved tankard was presented.

Lucy Day, a representative of Mossfords, was present at the meeting to accept the gift on behalf of Simon Morgan. It was handed over by the Town Mayor, Coun Jeff Evans.



## FLY DIRECT FROM CARDIFF TO 'UNDISCOVERED ITALY'

READERS will be delighted to learn that Newmarket Holidays is offering a departure from Cardiff Airport covering the southern provinces of Puglia, Basilicata and Bari.

It will explore many of the highlights of an area that was until fairly recently, both figuratively and literally, 'down at heel', but which has now begun to rival much of the rest of Italy.

### 'Italian Versailles'

The first night is spent in Caserta, dominated by the vast former royal palace known as the 'Italian Versailles'.

The following day, the journey east into neighbouring Basilicata beckons, and with it, historic Matera.

Remote and atmospheric, Matera is famed for its extraordinary sassi cave-dwellings and have been declared with justification a UNESCO World Heritage site.

### ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Heading from Matera into the province of Puglia, the tour then spends three nights in a four-star hotel close to the famed hill-town of Ostuni.

This comfortable base is ideal for relaxed exploration, not only of Ostuni itself, with its maze of narrow alleyways but of Alberobello, home to the largest collection of conical trulli houses and of Baroque treasure-chest Lecce.

The simple dry-stone and domed-roofed trulli offer cooling shade in the heat of summer, and are very much a permanent feature and the major draw for the increasing number of visitors to Alberobello.

### 'Florence of the South'

One of the highlights of the tour is the visit to the gorgeous city of Lecce, where extravagantly decorated churches and civic

buildings have earned it the title of 'Florence of the South.'

### Rest and relaxation

En route to a final two-night stay on the Adriatic shore in Vieste, at the tip of the remote Gargano peninsula, there's a visit to port-city Bari to enjoy, the highlight of which is the stunning Basilica di San Nicola.

After all the exploration of the last few days, it's time for some 'R and R', with the delights of a well-appointed hotel to enjoy, before heading home.

With four-star accommodation and the services of a friendly, knowledgeable tour manager, this is a tour that will be richly rewarding to all those who have wanted to discover a region still unspoiled by ravages of mass tourism.

'Undiscovered Italy' direct from Cardiff Airport; departs on June 2 and September 2; seven nights from £969.

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# Out and About with The GEM

## Oyelowo's trip to Selma powerful and uplifting...

As well as being a spell check nemesis, David Oyelowo has been building up steam on the big screen over the past few years, lighting up the likes of *The Last King of Scotland*, *The Help*, *Jack Reacher* and *Interstellar* to name but four.

However, Oyelowo's latest role sees him essay Martin Luther King in *Selma*, which tells the story of how King's intention to march in 1965 from the titular town to Montgomery, Alabama, in a bid to secure equal voting rights, with King and his followers acting in the face of opposition both verbal and physical...

Much has been made of *Selma*'s alleged snub at this year's Academy Awards, the film receiving only a best picture nomination to go with a nod in the best song category, with detractors claiming it's a symbol that Oscar voters (many of whom are white and with an average age of 63) are out of touch – nothing

new there then. Conspiracy theories aside, it is puzzling there wasn't more love shown as *Selma* is a moving, heartbreaking and uplifting piece of work that tells the tale of a vital tipping point in American history exceedingly well.

There is always a danger of true-life tales taking a set point of view without looking outside its bubble (the more Oscar-lauded *American Sniper* for example), but *Selma*'s strength is digging beneath the fact and history and throwing us into the reality of the situation; several times the emotional impact of what you see on screen is amplified only seconds later with the knowledge that these events actually took place.

The ace card comes from David Oyelowo, whose performance as Martin Luther King is absolutely mesmerising. It would be easy to simply play the icon, the man who held audiences rapt as he eulogised about a world of equality, yet while Oyelowo thoroughly convinces in these big speeches, it's in the



by GARETH JAMIESON  
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quieter moments (consoling a grandfather whose son has been a fatal victim of King's dream for example) that he really shines.

While the film bathes King in a heroic light, there are hints around the edges, subtly introduced, that he is simply just a man with the foibles and weaknesses that come with it – a late-night confession to his wife, doubt that what he is trying to do will actually work – and the cost, both mental and physical, that his course of action will have.

Oyelowo's ability to dig below the surface of King is what gives the film its propulsion, the actor investing everything and it's clear through the performance just how ingrained Oyelowo is in nailing the man behind the myth.

It's Oyelowo's second time working with director Ava DuVernay (they are set to team a third time for a film about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina), and already the pair seem to have developed a shorthand together that works well.

DuVernay's camera captures the tone and tensions of the times perfectly, but is never far away from Oyelowo; a

critique is that when Oyelowo is offscreen, the material feels like it's playing a little too much to type, but this is an impressive directorial outing for DuVernay.

Surrounding Oyelowo are fine turns from the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Tim Roth and Tom Wilkinson; the former acting as the tipping point as her dreams of being able to vote are cruelly denied, while the latter pair, as the Alabama governor, and president Lyndon Johnson respectively, could so easily have played the oppressive white man roles (despite in reality Johnson's contribution to civil rights) but the script by Paul Webb thankfully offers them some light and shade, with Giovanni Ribisi's small role as Johnson's adviser a nice counterpoint.

As ever with films of this ilk, and as touched upon earlier, while *Selma* offers a little more roundedness than some true life stories, there are still elements that are glossed over; but when a film is as powerful and as moving as this one, you are more than prepared to accept these shortcomings.

**VERDICT:** An emotional and engaging snapshot of a moment in history, Ava DuVernay's *Selma* manages to jettison historical stuffiness for a film that is heartbreaking and uplifting. It's well done across the board, but David Oyelowo's mesmerising (and sadly unrewarded) turn as Martin Luther King is the fuel that makes this fire ignite. *Highly recommended.*

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:** *Thirteen Days* (2000), *Lee Daniels' The Butler* (2013).

## Pictures that tell a moving story

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, opened an exhibition of photography at the St Donats Art Centre on Saturday, February 7 by artist David Evans Berry.

After graduating from the documentary photography course at University of Wales, Newport (now the University of South Wales), he worked at the Ruchi school in the industrial township of Baddi in northern India. The children, who have no birth certificates and do not officially exist, posed proudly in their school uniforms. Ms Hutt said:

"David's pictures capture very skillfully the flicker of aspiration in the children's faces. This is rendered so much more poignant by the knowledge that the school which offered them the hope of education is no longer open."

David Evans Berry said: "Travelling in what we see as a third world country showed me what is really important in life and what is unnecessary. It was an important lesson to learn."

The exhibition, titled *Om Vishnu*, is open from 10am-4pm on Monday to Friday until February 27.

## WHAT'S ON / NEWS IN BRIEF

### Can you host a vulnerable adult?

THE Vale Council is calling on residents to support the adult placement service by opening their homes to adults with learning and other disabilities for short breaks and on a long-term basis.

For more information, visit [www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or telephone 01446 731105.

### Benefit advice

ARE you living in the Vale and need help on benefits such as pension credit, attendance allowance, housing benefit or disability living allowance?

Age Connect Cardiff and Vale runs a monthly welfare rights service which can help you with any of these issues. You may have had a benefit turned down. We can help with an appeal.

## YFC prove small is best!

MEMBERS of Wick Young Farmers really have something to celebrate – they recently entered a national competition for the club of the month – and won!

Even though the club is probably the smallest in Glamorgan, they must have made up for their attributes to win such an accolade!

They have been busy starting the ball rolling to get the public more aware through social media to gather support for all dairy farmers by drinking pints of milk.

It's vital that our members show how passionate young people are about supporting our agricultural industry and by using social media it has really spread the word!

Young Farmers in Wales received a setback, due to Welsh Government cutting grant aid from April 1 and are trying to overturn this decision.

There is never a quiet moment in the YFC calendar and this week they face the pantomime festival in the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl where you will find the members showing off their talents to a different level! Tickets are available through GlamorganYFC. CT

Age Connect Cardiff and Vale will be able to chat to you on any of these issues and help with form filling.

A session is being held on Tuesday, February 17, from 9.30am to 11.30am at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Appointments can be made or just come along. Home visits can be arranged, contact 01446 732385. GF

### Poetry reading

GRiffin BOOKS, Penarth's independent bookshop, is hosting 2015 Costa Poetry Award winner

Jonathan Edwards for a reading and Q&A session next week.

He has won multiple awards, but *My Family and Other Superheroes* is his first published collection. This event takes place in Griffin Books on Thursday, February 19, from 7pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. For more details visit [griffinbooks.co.uk](http://griffinbooks.co.uk).

### Display

THROUGHOUT 2015 Dyffryn Gardens will be using its exhibition hall to showcase works by local art groups and students.

Cardiff School of Art and Design will kick off the first exhibition on February 18 and will be displaying until mid-March.

The works are in response to new research about the Cory family, who lived at Dyffryn during the late 1890s and early 1900s.

### Pontyclun display

GILES Gallery, Pontyclun will stage a charity exhibition.

The Pontyclun & District Macmillan Fundraising Group has been given a set of framed tapestry pictures crafted by an unnamed supporter, which will be offered for sale.

Free entry and free glass of wine and nibbles.

Formed less than two years ago, the group has already raised in excess of £17,000 and has a new target of £25k in its sights.

### Free half term play schemes

BRIDGEND Communities First has free February half term play schemes and activities throughout the county borough for children aged 8 – 11 years.

Play schemes will be based at: Caerau Welfare Park Pavilion (bowls hall) February 16 and 18, 10am – 2pm; North Cornelly Scout Hall February 16, 17 and 18, 10am – 2pm; Ogmore Valley Life centre (with Halo Leisure) February 16 – 20, 10am – 2pm; Bettws Life Centre February 17 and 20, 10am – 1pm; Maesteg Welfare Park Pavilion February 17 and 19, 10am – 2pm; Gwylfa Hall, Minerva Street, Bridgend February 19 10am – 2pm; Bettws Library – Create your own rap workshop February 19 from 2pm – 4pm.

For further details, call Bridgend Communities First, 01656 643514 or visit [www.commfirstbridgend.co.uk](http://www.commfirstbridgend.co.uk).

## WACKY RAINBOW RUN BACK FOR TY HAFAN

TY HAFAN will again bring Wales' colourful 5K Rainbow Run to Porthcawl to support its vital work with life-limited children and their families on April 18.

More than 700 people have already signed up for the wacky fun run at Coney Beach where participants will walk, run, skip, dance or even hop the route – and will be showered with coloured powder along the way!

Mair Kinsey, marketing and events

officer at Tŷ Hafan, said: "The Rainbow Run is not a race and it's not about speed or fitness – it's about having lots of fun with friends and raising a smile for Tŷ Hafan."

"Tŷ Hafan is a magical place, full of fun and laughter and not what you might imagine a hospice to be. We think that the Rainbow Run is the perfect way to celebrate and support the work we do."

To register for the Rainbow Run, visit [www.rainbowrunwales.co.uk](http://www.rainbowrunwales.co.uk) or call 029 2053 2282.

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# Weatherman Derek has a Patagonian adventure for Velindre Cancer Centre

## POPULAR local weather presenter Derek Brockway has signed up to trek Patagonia in 2015 – to raise funds for Velindre Cancer Centre.

Following the success of 'Walk with the Weatherman' last November, the second in his series has also been announced.

This time Derek will be tackling the highest point in southern Britain, Pen y Fan on Sunday,

March 22. Derek said: "The first Walk with the Weatherman was great fun, an eight-mile walk from Barry to Rhosneig Point, which attracted great support.

"This walk is another favourite of mine, with fantastic views from the top of Pen y Fan. I just hope the weather is fine so we can enjoy the spectacular scenery!

"Velindre is a wonderful charity and helps so many people including a few of my friends, family and work

colleagues providing vital treatment, care and support.

"The number of people suffering from cancer is on the increase; none of us know what's around the corner and I want to do my bit to help.

"I am fascinated by Patagonia, its history and connection with Wales and as a keen walker I've always wanted to visit this special part of the world. Plus while I am there I will have the opportunity

to practice my Welsh, say *shwmae* and *hwyl am y rol*!"

Derek explained: "The trek is going to be a challenge and I will need to get fitter over the next 10 months.

"More importantly, I hope to raise loads of money for Velindre, so it can continue to help people in the future and with more research and hopefully find a cure for cancer. My walk on March 22 will help my fitness regime and I hope lots of people sign up and join me."

Entry for the event is £5, and each participant

will be required to raise a minimum of £50. If you would like to join Derek and Walk with the Weatherman please visit: [www.velindrefundraising.com/bookonline](http://www.velindrefundraising.com/bookonline).

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Welsh settlers arriving in Patagonia Velindre has organised a unique, once in a lifetime trek.

The 11-day journey will take in stunning national parks, mountain ridges, beautiful lakes, amazing icefalls and stunning views of the snow capped Andes.

On November 24, Velindre trekkers will be

part of a very special walk with the Rifleros as they trek up Craig Goch to the point from which Cwm Hyfryd was first seen by Welsh ancestors 150 years ago to the exact day.

Head of fundraising at Velindre, Andrew Morris said: "Having previously organised some very successful treks to

Kilimanjaro and Peru we wanted to put together a really special trip.

"Given the unique relationship between Wales and Patagonia, and the significance of the 150th anniversary, November 2015 is definitely the right time to be trekking this fantastic country.

"Being part of the

official 150th celebrations will also give our participants a rare insight into Patagonia, a chance to enjoy stunning countryside through a challenging trek, and also raise money to help Velindre continue to provide help and support for cancer patients in Wales".

## Holly answers call for overseas volunteers

FEWER than 100 Welsh 18 – 25-year-olds out of 7,000 young people in the UK have joined fully-funded volunteer placements overseas with ICS VSO, according to a recent report.

Now a 25-year-old Porthcawl woman is urging other young Welsh people to apply to volunteer for an experience of a lifetime and to help contribute to the fight against global poverty.

Holly Aspey (25) will travel to Cambodia on March 3, to help fight poverty in Stung Treng Province for three months. She will team up with local volunteers to tackle some of the problems facing the community, after getting a place on the Government-funded International Citizen Service (ICS).

Holly explained: "In order to participate in this volunteering project of a lifetime, I need to raise £800 for the charity that is fighting global poverty across the world through volunteers.

"Fundraising will show my commitment to the project and hopefully inspire other young people to apply to volunteer overseas and develop on a personal and professional level – bringing home skills, confidence and ideas that they can put to use in their own communities in Wales. So far, I've raised over £200 by sharing my story over Facebook."

To sponsor Holly Aspey, visit [www.justgiving.com/Holly-Aspey2](http://www.justgiving.com/Holly-Aspey2).

To find out more about ICS, visit [www.volunteers.org](http://www.volunteers.org) or call 0208 780 7400.

## 'Please support Daffodil Appeal'

I AM appealing to your readers to volunteer for Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal, and help people living with a terminal illness in Bridgend to get the care they need.

We're looking for people who can donate a couple of hours of their time to collect for Marie Curie this February and March. All they need to do is encourage people to give a donation in

return for a daffodil pin. It's great fun!

Collecting for the Great Daffodil Appeal will help Marie Curie nurses care for someone with a terminal illness in your local community so they can spend more time with the people they love.

If you're able to donate your time to help, please contact me on 01554 759 071, or visit [www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil](http://www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil).

Hannah Leckie, Community Fundraiser.



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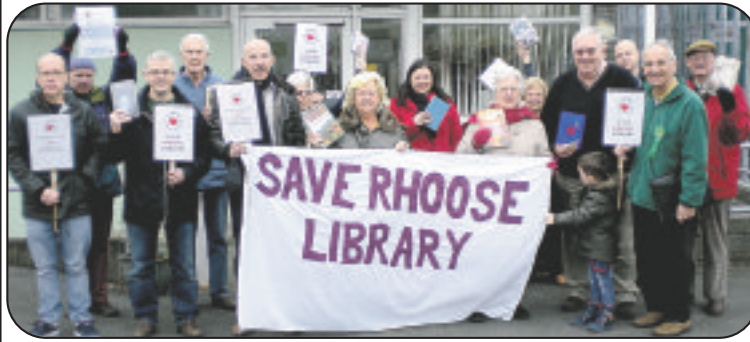
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# Rhoose Library: THE FIGHT GOES ON



Anyone reading this week's letters page will have noted that campaigners who want to keep Rhoose Library open were disappointed by a letter last week which stated that the library "is closing". The GEM acknowledges that a better phrase would have been "is threatened with closure". A spokesman for the campaigners, Coun Philip Clarke, has emphasised that the campaign is very much alive.

## MP calls for public to back cancer battle



MP ALUN CAIRNS is backing an appeal by Cancer Research UK to save the lives of more cancer patients – as a report shows that now one in two people will be diagnosed with the disease at some point in their lives.

The new figure was announced on World Cancer Day to highlight the urgent need to bolster public health and cancer services, so they can cope with a growing and ageing population and the looming demands for better diagnostics, treatments, and earlier diagnosis.

The MP for the Vale attended a parliamentary event held by Cancer Research UK to mark World Cancer Day and encourage MPs to support their Cross Cancer Out campaign.

He commented: "Currently, UK cancer survival rates are still lagging behind the best in Europe and too many cancers are diagnosed at an advanced stage, when they are harder to treat successfully."

"We cannot underestimate the devastating impact that cancer will have on people now and in the future."

"The good news is that Cancer Research UK is making huge advances in the battle against the disease," he added.

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## Ward celebrates positive inspection at hospital

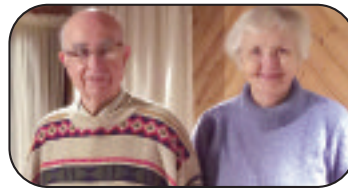
CARDIFF and Vale University Health Board welcomed Health Care Inspectorate Wales (HIW) for an unannounced dignity and essential care inspection at the University Hospital for Wales' ward B1 last October.

The report has been published and the "observations made by the Inspectors were extremely positive and reflect a high standard of patient care", they state. "Ward B1 provides cardiology care to patients from across south east Wales," explained Caryl Fox, Clinical Board Nurse for the UHB. "The comments made by the HIW Inspectors show the quality of treatment and high level of care on Ward B1."

"I'd like to thank the staff on the ward for their continued hard work and dedication to ensure patients receive the best possible care."

The HIW Inspectors had found staff were committed to providing good standards of person-centred care and patients and their families were treated with respect and dignity.

## Charity song!



ABOVE: Hywel and Gwyneth Jeffreys.

Hywel Jeffreys (79) and his wife Gwyneth (82), are hosting a special celebration of music and song for Parkinson's UK on Monday, March 2 at the Hippodrome Music Hall, which is attached to their house in Lake Road West, Roath, Cardiff.

Performers include singer-actor Eric Roberts, the Pontyclun Ladies Choir and violinist Simon Carter.

For further information call Philippa Davies, Parkinson's UK Wales Fundraiser on 0844 225 9835 or [pdavies@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:pdavies@parkinsons.org.uk).

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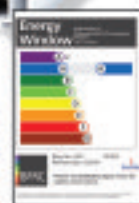
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## Bridge talks progress as closure time is cut

AS a result of the recent furore over plans to close the railway bridge at Ewenny for five months, a series of meetings has been taking place, yielding a promise by Network Rail to cut the closure time by

almost two months, writes **PHILIP IRWIN**.

Both Vale AM Jane Hutt and Vale MP Alun Cairns have been regulars at the offices of Network Rail, after local businesses in St Bride's Major said that losing passing trade for such a time would severely damage them.

On Friday, February 6, Ms Hutt held a meeting with Dylan Bowen, Head of Public Affairs at Network Rail, to discuss the issue.

Alun Cairns also reported: "In the past week I have had held two very constructive meetings with Network Rail and contractors".

After the meetings, it was announced that the construction time had been cut from five months to just over three.

The project is now scheduled to start in early March, and finish in June.

Mark Lewis, who is the landlord of the Fox and Hounds in St Bride's Major, told The GEM: "Any reduction in the amount of time that the bridge is closed is a help, but we are still waiting to have a conversation about compensation for the lost trade."

Alun Cairns said: "I am pleased that Network Rail has listened to my concerns on behalf of the community and has looked again in depth at how the new bridge project can go ahead."

"A significant reduction in the timescales is now realistic, and I will keep the pressure on Network Rail to identify further opportunities to shorten the project timings".

He added "Everyone recognises the need for a new bridge, and following our meetings, I am grateful to Network Rail for taking the concerns of the community seriously and acting."

Jane Hutt said: "I am writing to Wales and West utilities to urge them to divert their power lines alongside these works – as BT has agreed to do."

"I have also asked for clear signs to be provided at the entrance to the village to say that it's 'business as usual' for the local shop, pub and hair salon and well-marked signage about diversionary tactics for lorries during the period of closure."

## Sainsbury's comments on local plans

**FOLLOWING** a recent letter in The GEM, where a reader stated that Sainsbury's would not be opening in Llantwit Major, the supermarket giant has written to clarify the situation.

A Sainsbury's spokesperson said: "We held a public consultation in spring 2014, where we said we were exploring options for a small store to serve the town, proposing a site on land at Bridge House Farm, Llanmaes.

"A large number of residents were supportive of a new foodstore coming to the town, but not at this particular site. "We listened to this feedback and held further discussions with local stakeholders to understand their concerns in more detail. We remain committed to bringing forward a new Sainsbury's in the area and are reviewing our options as how to best do this.

"We appreciate this delay will be frustrating, but we hope to be able to update the local community in the coming months".

However, total clarity is not quite there yet. The GEM asked one question, which was: "Can you confirm that Sainsbury's has no interest in developing the Llanmaes site?"

The response was as follows: "We're reviewing our options currently. When we can provide more detail, we will".

### GOMIN OGWR Cymuned Ogwr Cyngor Bro Morgannwg



### OGMORE COMMON Community of Ogmore Vale of Glamorgan Council

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi gwneud cais i'r Gweinidogion Cymreig am ganiatâd o dan Adran 38 Deddf Tiroedd Comin 2006 i wneud ychydig o waith ar Gomin Ogwr CL32. Cynigir y gwaith fel rhan o gynllun i ailosod Llwybr Arfordir Cymru a darparu llwybr mwy diogel nad yw'n rhy agos i Ogmore Road/B4524.

Dyma'r gwaith a gynigwyd:

1. Gwastatáu'r llethr bresennol drwy: a) godi a chadw'r tyeirch a godwyd b) gloddio'r wyneb moel hyd at ddwyfnder gwastad; c) osod ymyl bren ar bob ochr, a defnyddio'r pridd a dynnwyd i adeiladu clawdd hyd at yr ymyl bren ar y llethr i waered; ch) roi rhwyll borfa dros y cyfan er mwyn ei gynnal; d) ailosod y tyeirch a'u sicrhau wrth y rhwyll a phinnau. Mae'n bosibl y bydd angen rhagor o dweirch.

2. Bydd y gwaith yn effeithio ar ddarn o dir comin 58 medr o hyd ac 1.5 medr o led.

Bydd y gwaith yn cael ei wneud yng nghornel ogledd-ddwyreiniol y comin ac i'r de ddwyrain o dafarn y Pelican, Ogmore Road, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, CF32 0QP, rhwng cyfeirnodau grid SS 8819 7674 (pwynt A ar y map) ac SS 8822 7679 (pwynt B ar y map).

Cewch weld y ffurflen g i'r map sy'n dangos y gwaith arfaethedig, yng Nghyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Heol yr Isffordd, CF63 4RT rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm yn ystod yr wythnos. Cewch gopi o'r ffurflen gais a'r map drwy anfon llythyr i'r cyfeiriad uchod neu nages i: [pcotnam@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:pcotnam@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Dylech anfon eich gwrthwynebiadau neu'ch sylwadau mewn llythyr neu nages i Arolygiaeth Gynllunio Cymru, Adeiladu'r Goron, Parc Cathays, Caerdydd CF10 3NQ / [wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk) ERYBN 12 Mawrth 2015. Ni chaiff llythron sy'n cyrraedd yr Arolygiaeth eu trin yn gyfrinachol. Bydd copïau'n cael eu hanfon at yr ymgyddiad a rhai eraill cyfrannog hefyd o bosibl.

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig 12 Chwefror 2015

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has applied to the Welsh Ministers for consent under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 to carry out restricted works on Ogmore Common CL32. The work is proposed as part of a re-alignment of the Wales Coast Path in order to provide a safer path route away from Ogmore Road/B4524.

The proposed works are:

1. To level the current sloped gradient by; a) lifting & retaining existing turf, b) excavating exposed surface to a level depth; c) timber edging on both sides, use excavated soil to embank to sloped timber side; d) install grass mesh for stability, over which; e) existing turf re-laid back & pinned to mesh. Some supplementary turf may be needed,

2. The area of common land affected will be 58 metres in length by 1.5 metres wide.

The works will be located in the north east corner of the common and south east of the Pelican Public House, Ogmore Road, Bridgend, CF32 0QP, on Grid Ref: SS 8819 7674 (point A on map) to SS 8822 7679 (point B on map)

A copy of the application form and map showing the proposed works can be inspected at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Docks Office, Subway Road, CF63 4RT, between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays. A copy of the application form and map may be obtained by writing to the address given above or by e-mail: [pcotnam@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:pcotnam@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Any objections or representations should be sent in writing ON or BEFORE 12th March 2015 to the Planning Inspectorate Wales at Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or [wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk). Letters sent to the Planning Inspectorate cannot be treated as confidential. They will be copied to the applicant and possibly to other interested parties.

Director of Development Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Docks Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

Dated 12th February 2015

## The GEM is attacked – for printing article in Welsh!

### ‘God bless those preserving our magical Welsh language’

**W**OULD you please print the following letter with reference to the anonymous male or female who didn't like the fact that The GEM has a Welsh page in your newspaper, with articles written in

### ‘Welsh is my language... and I'm proud!’

**I**AM writing today to thank my teachers in Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

They are amazing and so helpful, I love my teachers! My headteacher is a great inspiration to me, as he told us in assembly something that made me think long and hard – ‘Welsh is my language, it doesn't belong to any other country.’

Although I'm not saying that no one else can speak it, I'm saying that the Welsh language belongs to Wales!

He made me think that people who live in Wales should be proud to speak this amazing language, because at the end of the day you are in

Wales! Sure, I can speak other languages like English, and a little bit of French, but it brings me back to the fact that I am a fluent Welsh speaker!

Yes, it's nice to speak other languages, but I would be proud to just speak WELSH! You should be really proud to speak Welsh, even if you can only say ‘Hello’.

That's the point, you don't have to come from a Welsh family, you don't even have to be a fluent Welsh speaker.

Welsh is Welsh at the end of the day, no matter what! I am so glad to speak the Welsh language and I think you should too..

**Ffion Sara Jeffery,**  
(aged 11)  
**Penarth.**

Welsh. I cannot understand why?

In France, articles are printed in French in their newspapers as is the case in Germany, Italy, Russia, etc.

I would recommend that he or she should listen to a good male voice choir singing ‘Myfanwy’. I am sure the anonymous person will then appreciate this beautiful Welsh language.

God bless the people of Wales who are trying to preserve this magical language for our future generations.

A friend of mine wondered if alongside each article written in Welsh, there could be the same article written in English.

**Mrs Margaret McParlin, Dinas Powys.**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Thank you for your letter Mrs Parlin, and the suggestion is duly noted, though space has to be a practical consideration.

### ‘The Welsh are more friendly’

**W**ITH reference to the comment by Peter Reed in the GEM of February 5, I would like to say, just because you were born at St David's Hospital, Cardiff, does not make you Welsh, any more than if I'd been born at Chairman Mao Hospital in Beijing, it would automatically make me Chinese.

In Wales, people also speak Welsh... Love it or leave it.

How many times have I heard tourists comment that the Welsh are much more friendly and welcoming than the English!

That is a generalisation, of course, but there's some truth in it.  
**C John**  
**Corntown**

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# Bobbies on Call to offer great support

**C**o-directors and namesakes Bob Evans and Bob McAlister, are delighted with the response to the initial wave of advertising and publicity in The GEM, for their 'Bobbies on Call' venture – which has been up and running in the Vale and surrounding areas for almost two years.

Bob Evans said: "We have yet to meet anyone who has told us that this offer of on-call support and practical help is anything other than a great idea."

"The formula of having former police and emergency service workers at your call, has really grabbed the imagination and it seems to fill a void in people's lives."

"We are not seeking to replace anything that is there already for people, in terms of support, but our callers show that there was a gap."

"Thankfully, we are all living longer, but with that goes a desire to maintain independent living in our homes for as long as possible. We assist our clients to do just that, by providing practical, rather than the usual medical-type care that people consider when they age."

"The positive feedback we receive confirms that our instincts for the business were correct."

Co-founder Bob

McAlister commented: "I can't tell you how touched I was when one lady – our very first customer – said on receiving her first catch-up call from the team, said: 'I really feel that knowing there is someone at the end of the phone for me, has made a difference to my life already.'"

"When you leave the force, you tend to miss certain parts of the job, but now being back in the role of helping people, has replaced some of that job satisfaction. If our business can continue to do that for others, then that suits us all," he added.

Bob Evans from Penllyn, Cowbridge, began his career in 1980 at the age of 17, rising through the ranks of South Wales Police and retiring with the rank of Assistant Chief Constable.

Bob McAlister, who also held a senior position at South Wales Police, said: "Bobbies On Call' suits those people who may not always have family or reliable help close to hand. With many years' service apiece, there is very little that 'Bobbies On Call' personnel haven't encountered and dealt with calmly and efficiently."

Adds Bob Evans: "Our hand-picked staff understand that day-to-day concerns can prevent the elderly from enjoying their home and sense of well-being."

"Cold-callers, rogue traders, worrying if your

property is safe and secure – are all issues that can cause anxiety."

"Then there are the day-to-day niggles people wish were sorted out – from a piece of furniture that needs moving – to help making sense of a utilities bill or contract."

Both Bobs believe that just knowing there is someone at the end of the phone who can call round and help out can make all the difference and provides that vital peace of mind for their clients.

"Bobbies On Call' is a subscription-based service available on a 24-hours a day, seven-days a week, 'on-call' and response line for those seeking practical support in managing their lives, especially when things get a little difficult through old age or incapacity."

Staffed by teams of retired police officers and emergency services staff, it incorporates a range of practical support services, from minor crisis resolution, handyman support and house minding, to crime prevention advice, chauffeuring and general companionship.

For more information about all the services offered by the Bobs and their team, call the dedicated line on 01446 656789, or visit [www.bobbiesoncall.com](http://www.bobbiesoncall.com).



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## PASSMORES ASKS 'HAVE YOU MADE YOUR WILL YET?'

**EVERY adult in the UK should consider making a Will, and here are some of the reasons why:**

- Without a Will, the state directs who inherits your estate, so the people you wish to benefit may get nothing.

- Without a Will, if you are married, you may think that your estate will pass to your spouse in any event, but this is not necessarily the case.

- If you are not married to your partner, the law does not automatically recognise partners as having the same rights as

husbands, wives and civil partners, and your partner may get nothing.

- If you have children, there may be uncertainty about who will look after or provide for them, should you die.

- Certain people could make a claim on your estate if you have no Will, because they may depend upon you financially.

- Inheritance tax issues may arise if not addressed in your Will.

Wills should be kept up to date and renewed upon any change of circumstances; for example, marriage, divorce, separation, death of a loved one, or upon having a child.

Excluding certain beneficiaries

in your Will may also cause potential difficulties as they may have the right to make a claim against your estate. Special care is needed if you exclude persons who might expect to benefit under your Will.

Ensure that you have a Will in place and that it is up to date to avoid any undesired consequences and complications.

Carli Evans is a solicitor with Messrs Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, a specialist panel of solicitors dealing with elderly client matters and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

**SEE MORE ON PAGE 24**



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## 'The real reason for recycling closures'

**T**HE Vale of Glamorgan Council has recently closed a number of recycling centres in Barry, because of so-called 'fly tipping and abuse'.

This reasoning is disingenuous, to say the least. As an assiduous recycler, I used three of these sites on a regular basis – at the Waitrose supermarket, the Waterfront close to the Halford's store and alongside the

Gladstone Road roundabout near the police station. Any 'fly-tipping and abuse' was marginal.

My interpretation of 'fly-tipping' is the dumping of furniture, mattresses, builders' rubble, television sets, fridges, cookers and other large items that should be disposed of at the council's waste amenity site.

I cannot recall any of the preceding items being offloaded at the sites I used. In my view,

the real reason for closure was staggering simple: the bins were not emptied frequently enough and thus became overwhelmed and unsightly.

The council should be more honest and admit their failure to manage the sites properly. Rather, they offer spurious explanations, blaming local people.

GEM reader Derek Hooper, Barry.

# Reorganisation for local schools?

A proposed £35million transformation of a number of schools in Barry will be considered by Vale of Glamorgan councillors on February 23.

Proposals include the creation of a flagship English-medium mixed sex secondary school, comprising an upper and lower school building, on the current site of Barry Comprehensive and Ysgol Bro Morgannwg.

The Vale's Welsh-medium secondary school, along with its primary counterpart Ysgol Nant Talwg, would then be moved to the site of Bryn Hafren School, with a brand new primary school building installed on the site.

The Vale Council said a public consultation in 2013 showed strong support from parents and young people for a co-educational school to replace the current single sex secondary schools. Following the consultation a feasibility study was carried out.

The planned investment would see over £18m committed to improving the new mixed comprehensive school buildings and nearly £17m spent on renovations and the creation of new buildings for Ysgol Bro Morgannwg as part of the Welsh Government's Twenty-first Century Schools programme.

Carole Tyley, the chair of governors at Bryn Hafren, commented: "All of our pupils start their learning in mixed

primary schools and after leaving Bryn Hafren, most continue their learning in co-educational colleges and universities. We are one of the last single sex schools in the country and I think the time has come for a change."

Kath Beaudette, the chair of governors at Barry Comprehensive, added: "I welcome the development of proposals that will see major investment in school buildings in the town."

"With recent investment in secondary education in Cowbridge and Penarth, and plans in place for Llantwit Major, it is time that Barry's children and young people also benefitted."

## DID YOU LOSE YOUR CAMERA NEAR DYFFRYN?



ABOVE: Just two of the photographs on the camera found near Dyffryn.

A reader has contacted The GEM after he found a camera recently and wanted it returned to the owner.

Chris Buxton explained: "I was out walking on Tuesday, February 3, near Dyffryn. I visited the burial stones nearby and found a camera

lying on the ground by the stones." There were a number of cheerful family photographs on the camera and Chris is keen to reunite it with its rightful owner.

If you are the owner, or have information as to who the owner might be, contact The Glamorgan GEM on 01446 774484.

## Brighter Moves arrives in Llantwit Major

HAVING been the successful owners of Make Your Move Estate Agents since 2003, Darren and Helen Black are moving on to ventures new.

Based in the town at 1 Pound Field, Llantwit Major, they would like to thank their customers and friends for all their support over the years and would like to welcome Brighter Moves to the Llantwit premises.

Brighter Moves has been established since 2008 with offices in Bridgend and Talbot Green.

The Llantwit office will be run by Robert Morgan, a member of the National Association of Estate Agents.

Robert, a Llantwit resident since 1980, has a wealth of local knowledge to bring with him.

His aim is to continue the great service provided by Make Your Move, and maintain the ethos of an independent estate agency.

For simplicity in the transfer, Brighter Moves will continue with the same telephone number 01446 794433.

Brighter Moves will be loading properties onto the national portals of Right Move and Zoopla along with GEM newspaper advertising and would welcome any visits to the office, to meet and greet new and old customers.

## Is Roxy music to your ears?

ROXY is a six-year-old crossbreed who is very loving and sweet, although she can be initially worried with new people.

Roxy does mix with other dogs, but sometimes struggles to share her toys. She is currently enjoying her weekly walks down to the local village pub to keep our wonderful volunteers company while they enjoy a coffee.

If Roxy is rehomed as an only dog, new owners will need to work hard on her separation issues. Roxy is a really lovely dog but due to her sensitive nature, she can only live with children over 14 years of age.

If you can offer Roxy a home, call 01656 725219 or visit Dogs Trust Bridgend, open every day except Wednesday.



LINDA FEAGAN

## Write a letter to your body!

LOCAL residents are being encouraged to 'send a letter to my body' – as part of a new arts and health initiative in Bridgend county borough which aims to get people talking about issues such as body image and confidence.

The project is being led by artist Rabab Ghazoul, arts organisation Addo Creative and social enterprise Halo Leisure Ltd, with support from the Arts Council of Wales and Bridgend County Borough Council.

Rabab said: "We're hoping everyone will want to get involved in writing a 'Letter to my body'". It's the

last phase in a project that's looking at the relationship between arts and health in Bridgend County Borough, and could have some wonderful knock-on effects for great cultural projects that can happen in future in the area."

There will be free 'Letter to my body' sessions, with the first one taking place at Carnegie House in Bridgend today (February 12) from 10.30am.

Bridgend Library will hold an event on February 25 from 6pm to 7.30pm, where feelings surrounding body image will be discussed.

Contact Sarah Pace on 07715 102517 or email [sarah@addocreative.com](mailto:sarah@addocreative.com).

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# THE MARIE CURIE DAFFODIL APPEAL... CAN YOU SPARE THE TIME TO HELP OUT?

**M**arie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal has been raising awareness and funds since 1986, when the first collections took place.

A spokeswoman said: "Marie Curie cares for people with any terminal illness including those with cancer, heart failure, dementia and chronic obstructive airway disease."

"Every March, millions of people across the UK show their support for our work, simply by giving a donation to wear a daffodil pin."

"This is all made possible by our fantastic team of volunteer collectors across the UK."

"Please join them in 2015 and help make it the best appeal yet."

"We've had 28 fantastic years of wearing yellow, collecting coins and raising smiles – joined by some famous faces along the way."

Here are some highlights:

In 1986 – The first daffodil appeal was held in Scotland. Volunteers collected donations and handed out fresh daffodils. The event was a great success and caught on across the UK.

In 1995 – The famous daffodil fabric pins made their debut, replacing fresh flowers. Three million pins were given out and £1.2 million donated.

In 2001 – Entertainer and presenter Cilla Black launched the appeal on a 'daffodil bus' donated by Yellow Pages, while model Kate Moss donned a designer T-shirt to raise awareness of Marie Curie's work during the appeal.

In 2011 – Actress Alison Steadman was the face of the very first TV ad campaign for the Great Daffodil Appeal. The appeal raised more than £5 million.

2014 was Marie Curie's most successful appeal to date raising £8.26 million, funding 413,000 nursing hours. The celebrity supporters included actress Olivia Coleman and actor Dominic West.



With your support, Marie Curie hopes 2015 will be the best year yet.

To sign up, please go to:  
[https://t.campaign.mariecurie.org.uk/webApp/mcc\\_suporterRegistration](https://t.campaign.mariecurie.org.uk/webApp/mcc_suporterRegistration)



You can request a donation box for your place of work.

LEFT:

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**Georgina Burke, Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR**

## 'The Government is letting people down...' 'End hunger in UK' call to Government

**A CALL to the UK Government by Ogmores MP, Huw Irranca-Davies, challenges it to end hunger in the UK.**

During the recent Department for Food, Farming and Rural Affairs questions, Mr Irranca-Davies stated that there is no shortage of food in the UK but that the country still faces a hunger crisis.

He said: "In the UK, around one million people rely on emergency food aid to feed themselves and their families. Of this number, over 35,000 live in Wales."

"In recent years, this number has dramatically increased; with the Trussell Trust, the UK's largest food bank network, reporting that in the last six months alone of 2014 there was a 40 per cent increase in the number of people needing food aid."

"Despite this growing problem successive Conservative and Liberal

Democrat Ministers have refused to take responsibility and work towards a solution for the growing number of working poor and vulnerable people reliant on emergency food aid."

He went on: "What we figures is mirrored in our own communities. In the past five years, the number of people who need food aid to feed their families has dramatically increased."

"While the work, dedication and compassion of people like the volunteers at the Bridgend Food Bank is incredible, a longer term solution is needed."

"Until we have a Government which is serious about tackling poverty and low pay, I fear people will continue to be unable to put food on the table for their children and their families."

"These are our friends and our families and it is not good enough that this Government is letting them down."

## Call for help for families in need

**I AM hoping that GEM readers can help us as we are in desperate need of furniture and household items, non perishable food items and cleaning products for families and individuals that are waiting for our help.**

We are a tiny voluntary group called Community Furniture Aid based in Pyle, and we offer donated items to those who are most in need.

People are directed to us from various agencies including homeless organisations, Women's Aid, the prison service, foster care, elderly and vulnerable adults to name a few. We also work with social services and housing associations.

We offer this service on a set donation price system that only just covers our very basic costs and we are all volunteers.

We cover all of Bridgend county borough and can also help in neighbouring areas for an extra charge in some cases.

We offer a part-house clearance service as well as single item collection. We can only afford to run our van two days a week so we have to try and fit a lot into our days. We welcome

volunteers from all backgrounds.

We also seek monetary donations that the public may wish to give to support our vital work, as we receive no outside funding.

Please can we do a 'shout out' for household items. We are in desperate need of items for families. Dinner plates, bowls, cutlery, mugs, beds, bedroom furniture, beds all sizes, cots (with all bolts) sofa with fire labels, white goods in working order as well as small electrical goods.

These are essential for someone having to set up a home from nothing.

Please contact the office to arrange collection or you can drop off items in Pyle.

If you wish to visit the unit, please get in touch with the office directly on 01656 746602.

**Marianne Cash, Community Furniture Aid.**

## Bridge results

**RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for February 9:**

1st Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 63.81%, 2nd Sue Norris & Su Summerhayes 63.48%, 3rd Marjorie Morris & Linda Pinnock 58.84%. **LE**

### Councillor Howard Hamilton

As Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, it gives me great pleasure to support

**Marie Curie Cancer Care Daffodil Campaign**



**Y Cynghorydd Howard Hamilton**

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### BARRY TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

**Councillor JEFF EVANS**

and members of the Town Council wish the Daffodil Campaign every success



Cyngor Tref Y Barri  
Y Cynghorydd Jeff Evans  
ae aelodau'r Cyngor Tref  
dymuno pob llwyddiant yr  
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## Glowing Estyn report for work of Y Bont charity



## 'Grazing ponies will enhance enjoyment at nature reserve'

**THE Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales' Cwm Colhuw Nature Reserve, lying 1km southwest of Llantwit Major, is a mix of grassland and coastal scrub, offering a refuge for wildlife that struggles to cling on in areas of intensively farmed habitat.**

The grassland habitat is particularly unusual in that it is relatively undisturbed. In fact, it has suffered from a lack of management in recent years, becoming dominated by tussocky grasses which shade out more delicate flowering plants.

Due to the location of the site, it is difficult to get hay-making machinery up there to manage the grassland, so in recent years ponies have been doing a good job grazing the inland field, with colourful waxcap fungi emerging along with more flowering plants than previously.

The coastal field has not, until now, been grazed, due to the

inability to keep ponies enclosed there. Because of the site's status as a scheduled ancient monument, Cadw's permission has to be sought before the installation of new infrastructure, such as gates and fenceposts.

This permission has now been received and at the start of February work began on installing a new gate at the entrance to the coastal field which will allow ponies to be moved into the field in the next few weeks.

There will only be a few animals and they are friendly, but we do advise walkers entering the field to keep their dogs under control, as there is a small risk that loose dogs could cause the ponies to panic.

Hopefully, the action of the ponies grazing will enhance visitors' enjoyment of the Nature Reserve while also improving the biodiversity status of the site. Contact v.matthews@welshwildlife.org.

**Vaughn Matthews**  
(conservation officer)

**LOCAL charity Y Bont has received a "glowing report" following an Estyn inspection, on January 13 and 14.**

General manager Marged Griffiths commented: "We are particularly pleased to receive such a positive inspection report, in light of the huge challenges Y Bont has faced recently to maintain provision.

"In summary - Key Q2: How good is provision? received a 'Good'; Key Q3: How good are leadership and management? received an 'Excellent' and overall received a 'Good' for the setting's current performance and 'Excellent' for the setting's prospects for improvement."

Inspectors referred to its positive approach, warm and nurturing ethos and outstanding awareness of the complex and varied needs of parents and carers.

Y Bont has been asked to prepare a written case study describing the excellent practice identified during the inspection, to share best-practice across Wales.

Ms Griffiths said: "Huge congratulations and thank you to everyone who has

helped us achieve such a fantastic result, especially our committed team of staff, trustees, volunteers and families and the Foundation Phase Support Officer - whose support was invaluable to us. As you can imagine we're bursting with pride!"

Brian Roderick, chair of the board of trustees commented: "The board was very pleased that the ESTYN inspection and report confirms that Y Bont is providing a

first class service that the children and families deserve."

Following funding changes at the beginning of the financial year, Y Bont faced the challenge of raising an additional £50,000 to maintain services for local disabled children and their families.

The Y Bont's staff and supporters raised £38,861 towards this target.

## Why Debbie plans Great Pancake Party for charity

**LOCAL mum, Debbie Chapman, is joining the Cardiomyopathy Association's national fundraising campaign, the Great Pancake Party.**

This encourages people up and down the country to stage a pancake party and raise money towards vital support services for families affected by heart muscle disease (see [www.greatpancakeparty.co.uk](http://www.greatpancakeparty.co.uk)).

Cardiomyopathy can affect anyone at any age, usually runs in families and is the biggest medical cause of sudden

death in under 35s.

Debbie said: "The party takes place on Monday, February 16 at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Methodist Lane, Llantwit Major, between 11am and 1pm.

"Feel free to call in for a pancake and tea or coffee for a donation."

Debbie decided to hold the party because she has a husband and two sons affected by the condition.

For more information, call 01446 796208.

## Jail 'on the cards' for a local golfing benefit cheat

**A CHAMPION golfer who claimed he was severely disabled, has been convicted at Cardiff Crown Court of carrying out a £26,000 fraud.**

Department of Work and Pensions investigators took part in a surveillance on 56-year-old Alan Bannister at St Andrew's Major Golf Club.

It followed an anonymous tip-off.

For eight years, Bannister had been receiving the higher benefit allowance for people with severe mobility problems. He said he was suffering from ankylosing spondylitis.

Following the three-day trial, Bannister, a former mechanical engineer with no previous convictions, of Barry Road, Barry, was found guilty of obtaining money transfers by deception.

Prosecutor Stuart McLeese said Bannister had made dishonest representations about the extent of his disability.

**Report by AJ SICLUNA**

"That he suffers from the illness was not in dispute, but he failed to record the full effects when filling in claim forms."

Bannister had claimed that he could walk only 50 yards without experiencing severe discomfort, and it took him at least 15 minutes.

Thus, said Mr McLeese, at that rate, a round of golf was taking him 18 hours to complete, and not the four hours it actually took.

Bannister told the jury that his condition varied and it was bad on some days, and better on others. He agreed he played golf frequently and had a handicap of 6, which indicated he was a good golfer.

In the past, he said he had suffered from depression because of his condition.

"I'm a fighter, and I will fight it," he said.

He said that in 2002 he had to give up work because of his illness.

Not working, he said, devastated him. He took several different types of drugs and was in extreme pain.

He denied that he was "a freeloader and a malingering" and he denied lying when making a benefits claim. He also said that sometimes he suffered pain from his "big toe to the top of his head".

Never, he added, had he exaggerated his symptoms.

He claimed he was encouraged to play and on the day he was filmed, he was in severe pain.

"Being on the course gave me relief. I can't stand being in the house."

He also said he went around the course on a "stop-start basis".

His counsel, David Leathley, said it was "a disgrace" that Bannister had been prosecuted.

He will be sentenced on March 12 and Recorder David Miller said: "All the sentence options are open, and I have to say that prison is on the cards."

He was remanded on bail.

## Town rallies to help Kayti with fundraiser

**A charity evening is being held at Llantwit Major Rugby Club this Saturday, February 14, to support a teenager who is undergoing specialist treatment in America.**

Kayti Spargo, aged 16, has been diagnosed with 'rhabdomyosarcoma' a form of cancer commonly known as RMS.

Kayti and her family now live in England, but she grew up in the town, and her dad Nick, a fireman, is Llantwit born and bred.

Doctors decided she needed 'proton beam therapy' which meant she and her mother Lynda, a teacher, had to fly from her family home in Melton Mowbray, to the Proton Therapy Institute in Jacksonville, Florida.

During the 'proton process' Kayti has continued her chemotherapy at the nearby Wolfson Children's Hospital. It has meant 10 weeks in a foreign country, to undergo experimental treatment - while being away from her siblings, relatives, friends, and dogs.

Nick told THE GEM: "The proton treatment is due to finish this week, but she will continue with chemotherapy."

"She has been struggling a bit - the proton treatment attacks her mouth, throat and ears, and has been very uncomfortable, but she refuses painkillers. She's been sleeping quite a lot recently."

"Despite everything, she still manages to smile. She is very positive and has written a book and wants to study English at Cambridge."

**by GEM REPORTER**



**KAYTI SPARGO.**

Nick said he and the family were looking forward to meeting everybody at Llantwit Rugby Club on Saturday night.

"I want to thank all the family and friends who have helped us."

Kayti and her mother hope to return to the United Kingdom on February 23.

You can make donations to support Kayti by credit or debit card by going to: <https://kaytispargo.com>.

There are some great prizes at the fundraising event, including tickets for the Wales Rugby World Cup warm-up match against Ireland, and the free use of a Citroen car for a weekend.

The charity evening is this Saturday, February 14, at Llantwit Major Rugby Club from 7pm until late. Live band Burning Bridges, auction and prizes, photo booth, burgers, hotdogs - and £5 entrance on the door.



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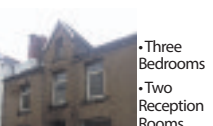
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We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of £125,000. Any person wishing to increase/better this offer should notify the office of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts.

PONTCANNA

27 Teifi Drive, Cwm Talwg, Barry CF62 7TL



We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £158,000. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before exchange of contracts takes place. Allen & Harris, 21 High Street, Barry CF62 7EA. The EPC rating is: D.

BARRY

145 Clydesmuir Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff CF24 2PZ



Allen & Harris are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £90,000. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Allen & Harris before exchange of contracts.

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**Windsor Court, Barry - £115,000**  
Immaculately presented, spacious 2 double bedroom apartment situated in the West end of Barry. Set within a Grade 2 listed building benefiting from many original features. Central hall, entrance, hallway, living room, kitchen, bathroom, Master bedroom with en-suite shower room, family bathroom. Secure gated parking to rear. Commercial launderette and gymnasium. No chain. EPC rating: C.



**Coigne Terrace, Barry - £135,000**  
Refurbished to a high standard, 3 bedroom, bay front, in the heart of Barry. Entrance porch, hallway, living room, fitted kitchen and bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating via combi boiler inst. 2014. Enclosed forecourt, rear garden. No chain.



**Woodlands Rd, Barry - £139,950**  
Well presented, 3 bedroom, bay fronted property, entrance porch, hallway, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, ground floor bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Enclosed forecourt and rear garden.



**Castleland Street, Barry - £134,950**  
Well presented three bedroom bay fronted. Entrance porch, hallway, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom to first floor. UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, enclosed forecourt and rear garden. Close by to all local amenities. EPC rating: E.



**Spencer Street, Barry - £118,500**  
3 bedroom traditional mid terrace property. Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, gas central heating. Enclosed, low maintenance rear garden. Walking distance of Holton Road shops.



**Fryatt Street, Barry - £109,950**  
2 double bedroom mid terrace property situated within the heart of Barry. Hallway, dining room, lounge, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. UPVC double glazing, gas central heating. Enclosed rear garden, close by to all local amenities. EPC-D. No chain.



**Claude Rd West, Barry - £199,950**  
3 bedroom bay fronted property, entrance porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, summer room. Bathroom to first floor, loft room. Large rear garden. No chain.



**St Brannocks Close, Barry - £119,995**  
3 bedroom ground floor apartment set in a cul de sac. Entrance hallway, lounge/dining room. Kitchen, bathroom, UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating, enclosed rear garden. Parking to front, garage block nearby. EPC: C. No chain.



**Whitmore Park Drive - £177,500**  
3 bedroom semi detached property. Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen and bathroom. Office/hobby room. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway, garage.



**Rutland Close, Barry - £167,500**  
3 bedroom semi detached property. Entrance porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom. New UPVC double glazing throughout. Gas central heating. Gardens to front and rear enjoying a good degree of privacy. Driveway providing off road parking for 2/3 vehicles. No chain.



**Curnix Barn, Moulton - £475,000**  
4 bedroom barn conversion situated within the rural Vale. Impressive ongoing project benefiting from two new paddocks. Existing current planning consent to extend the dwelling to the ground floor. Set out on one and a half acres. Reception hall, open plan, wet room, utility room, Master bedroom with potential for en suite. Family bathroom. Double glazing. LPG gas central heating. No chain.



**Woodham Park, Barry - £250,000**  
Beautiful extended 4 bedroom detached residence. Hallway, lounge, sitting room, kitchen, dining, family room. Conservatory, cloakroom, contemporary family bathroom. Majors UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating via combi boiler. Rear garden. Block forecourt off road parking for 3 vehicles. Views across open playing fields. EPC: D.



**Clifford View, Barry - £309,000**  
4 bedroom detached bungalow set within a cul de sac location. Hallway, living room, conservatory, kitchen, shower room, driveway providing off road parking for numerous vehicles. Garage. UPVC double glazing. Gas central heating. EPC: C. No chain.



**Lower Farm House, Llancadle - £575,000**  
Substantial period dwelling commanding views over rural countryside. 5 bedroom family home, 2 bathrooms, ensuite. Many original features with 2 inglenook fireplaces. Mature gardens and old style pigsty to rear.



**The Parade, Barry - £315,000**  
Well presented Victorian 4 bed semi detached. Harbour and sea views. Entrance hallway, lounge, sitting room. Modern kitchen/dining/family room. Bathroom suite. UPVC double glazing, gas central heating. Enclosed rear courtyard. Off road parking. EPC rating: D.

84 HIGH STREET, BARRY CF62 7DX

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# Porthcawl RFC rugby round-up

**THIS local derby between Porthcawl and Cefn Cribwr was a hard fought affair and the Seaweeds have only themselves to blame for not taking their chances at crucial times.**

That said, Cefn held the very key to the whole affair with a defensive display that was out of the top draw and saw them edge the match as a result.

The visitors had much the better of the opening period in scoring terms, quickly racking up 15 unanswered points, with two tries by Rob Curl and Jeff Jones, and a conversion and a penalty from Owen Davies, as the home crowd began to wonder when their team would start to get a grip.

No. 8 Mattie Davies, back following injury, made the halftime score respectable as he profited from a tremendous surge by the home edge to score a vital try, converted by Sam Parker for 7-15, at the break.

There followed a much more workmanlike effort from Porthcawl into the second half and when Ben Clarke scythed through a flat-footed defence for an unconverted try, at 12-15 it seemed that it was game on again.

Cefn though, had different ideas and when they scored their third try to make it 12-20, it merely showed the danger of having to play catch-up, with Porthcawl again two scores down and chasing the game.

Full-back Gareth Rees, always dangerous with ball in hand, earned his just reward with a good try which was unconverted for 17-20, but Cefn's dogged defence never tired, even toward the end of a hard match and they held firm to claim revenge for the earlier season defeat to Porthcawl.

The Porthcawl performance was better than in the previous couple of weeks and with more key players back from injury and suspension, coach Rhys James will want to see his side return to winning ways for the visit of Tonmawr on February 21.

## PAUL FIELDING NANTYMOEL YOUTH RFC 5 PORTHCAWL YOUTH RFC 48

**Porthcawl restarted their league campaign with a resounding win over their Ogmorth Valley opponents.**

With several players unavailable it was an ideal opportunity for some of the younger Seaweeds to gain valuable game time.

Almost from the kick off a darting run from Jac Robbins enabled the scrum half to cross over for an early try, which he converted. Again from the kick off it was all Porthcawl and from quick ball from a ruck, full back Ethan Wintle entered the line to cut through the home defence and score an unconverted try wide out.

Next on the scoresheet was Aaron Martin, who claimed a try after a well practised line out and drive move, converted by Robbins.

A further try by Jake Furness saw the halftime score 24-0.

Sticking to the policy of everyone plays, Porthcawl brought on the whole bench for the second half without depleting the side in any way.

The game followed the same pattern as the first, with the away team forwards and backs linking well, creating tries for Sam Comley, Leon Evans, Jake Furness and Jac Robbins; Robbins also added two conversions to take his personal tally to 18 points.

Praise must be given to Nantymoel who never gave up at all, and to their credit, scored a well deserved try late on in the game as a reward for their efforts.

This Saturday Porthcawl youth travel away to Penygraig RFC in the quarter-finals of the youth Welsh Cup; the bus leaves at 12 noon and all supporters are welcome.

CHRIS WINTLE

## UNDER-7S

**Porthcawl 12, Bridgend Sports 9; Porthcawl 8, Bridgend Sports 8; Porthcawl 9, Croesyceiliog 6. Awards went to Will Mitchell, Rhys Evans, Josh Sealey.**

## UNDER-8S BRIDGEND SPORT 18 PORTHCAWL 11; CROESYCEILIOG 16 PORTHCAWL 14

**We narrowly lost against two good teams but again we did enough to win the game in attack, our tagging letting us down, with only six players getting close to the magic 10 tags a game.**

We continue to be slow to close down the opposition and are bunched in defence, so it looks like another tagging session in training for us.

Our running game was strong despite the heavy sticky ground which did not help, but for the second week running nearly all our players scored, growing in confidence in attack.

The clubman award for individual effort goes to a player who was beaming at the end of the game. This player, for the last couple of weeks, has been building up his confidence, starting with a target of one or two tags and runs a game, but in these encounters he was ready to step up another gear.

Although Ben only made two tags in the first game what was important was that he was running forward without fear and with a smile on his face, and scoring two tries and coming out the fourth highest tagger, which is some achievement.

Other players whose confidence is growing are Dylan and Joel, who again made the scoresheet and their tag count continues to rise every week, with Dylan continuing to lead the line well.

Then comes Zane and Tailor who are coming into the game a lot more and their tag count is getting bigger and bigger.

GE



**ABOVE: Gareth Rees (left) and Tom Lodwig (right) both featured in Porthcawl RFC's close defeat against Cefn Cribwr on Saturday. ALL PICTURES BY TRACEY WILLIAMS.**

The next mention goes to Rose who was fearless and came out as top tagger, showing the boys the way forward in attack and defence. Theo and Ryan scored nine tries between them, and while both put in a great performance, the award for top try scorer goes to Ryan, not for his individual tries but for passing into space and creating gaps for his teammates.

Dewi and Lex both scored great tries and gained a high tag count, while Oscar scored three tries and continued to charge forward in defence, putting in an all-round performance and picking up clubman making a difference award.

Try scorers: Dylan, Rose, Oscar (3), Dewi (6), Ryan (4), Joel, Theo (5), Lex (2), Ben (2).

ROB HOOPER

## UNDER 9S BRIDGEND SPORTS 5 PORTHCAWL 5; CROESYCEILIOG 1 PORTHCAWL 3

**Playing at Newbridge Fields on bright sunny morning with two games to look forward to, we had good numbers with a very good depth of talent.**

Playing Bridgend Sports first, the two sides were pretty evenly matched. Tackling in the first half was good and the ball handling was also of a very high standard from both sides.

We trailed 4-2 at the break, but this group of players then cranked up their performance and went for it!

They had clawed themselves back into this game

## Llantwit Major RFC break 80 point barrier in Old Pens win

**ON a cold Saturday afternoon with the disappointment of Wales' defeat the previous evening clear in everyone's mind, Llantwit Major made the short trip to Penarth and the home of the Old Penarthians, or Old Pens as they are affectionately known.**

It was a bumper day for Llantwit as they ran in 12 tries in total for a final score of 84-12, in a display that on occasions looked like the famous Barbarians with the ball going through multiple sets of hands before being set down over the try line.

It wasn't long from the kick off that Llantwit used simple rugby from a scrum with number 8 Dan Farrel picking up and offloading to scrum half Rhys Balmont who found Steff Price, and he pierced the line expertly before offloading to Wasiau Vackegu to score the first try that was converted by Chris Fowler.

The lead was extended further when Chris Fowler knocked over a penalty. With the nerves seemingly settled there was a lapse in concentration that allowed the Old Pens in for a converted try.

Play continued following the restart and it was Old Pens who yielded yet another penalty this time again in a kickable position for Chris Fowler to take the three points.

From the kick off Llantwit

regathered the ball and worked their way upfield and through some smart interpassing Joel Thomas found himself in space to canter over the try line for a try on his senior debut.

Gareth Watts put in a barn storming display in the loose, making hard yards and with some immense offloads the next try wasn't long coming, when Joel Thomas, after almost seemingly getting caught with the ball, managed to slickly offload it to captain Marcus Pearce, who crossed for his first try of the afternoon.

Waisau Vackegu continued with his Fijian flair and sold the covering defence the biggest dummy to create a try that was converted by Chris Fowler.

Just before halftime Old Pens struck back with a try of their own to leave the score Old Penarthians 12, Llantwit Major 32. The halftime message was clear - continue in the same manner in the second half and finish the game off.

Old Pens kicked off the second half and the ball found Marcus Pearce, who stuck his head down and made off at speed.

Following a number of weak and missed tackles, Marcus crossed for his second try straight from the kick off which was again converted by fly half Fowler. Llantwit were now dictating all facets of play but the home side would not give up.

The pack continued their good work and it wasn't long before Rhys Davies crossed the line to

score with a number of defenders on his back, Fowler adding the extras.

Next came another forwards try; after securing the ball at a lineout they rumbled upfield and over the line for Dan Daw to claim his first try of the afternoon. Even after conceding 50 points the home side would not lie down and still came out fighting and scrapping for every ball they could.

Dan Farrel was next to get on the scoresheet after being particularly solid at the back of the scrums, another try that was converted by Chris Fowler.

Sam Booker, who had an outstanding game commanding the lineout on his own throws and stealing opposition ball with ease with help from his lifters, took a well-deserved try.

Marcus Pearce was next to extend the team score along with his own try tally when he crossed for his hatrick.

From a lean spell of about five minutes Llantwit secured the ball and it was spun across the line before Dan Daw, who had been lurking on the touchline, galloped over from 30 yards out for his second try.

Rob Grapes was next to get in on the act for a close range try that was converted by Dan Powell and in the final act of the game it was captain Marcus Pearce who broke the defence again to run in from almost halfway for his fourth and final try that was converted by Rob Grapes.

NE

## SCHOOL CONGRATULATES ITS YOUNG RUGBY SQUAD



**Back row (left to right) Harry Hopkins, Joe Patterson, Harry Harries, Ieuan Thomas, Chris Crompton, Tom Davies, Matthew Biggs, Levi Hallett. Front row: Ben Rich, Thomas Zielinski, Jack Walker, Morgan Hughes, Tommy Sanders, Iestyn Owen. (Joe Davis was unavailable for the photo).**

**MANY congratulations to 15 year-10 Brynteg Comprehensive pupils who have been selected in the Bridgend District Schools rugby squad for this season.**

The trial process, which began in early summer last year, put all of them through their paces and it is a testament to their commitment and hard work.

The school is extremely proud of the boys, all of whom were part of the Welsh Cup final squad from last season. Good luck to all the

boys who are selected to represent Bridgend Schools in their Dewar Shield matches.

There is a long tradition of Brynteg pupils representing Bridgend Schools and I am sure that this group of boys will only further our reputation.

Mr David Ince

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 End of terraced, 3 bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, GCH & UPVC D/G, enclosed rear garden, close to schools & shops. ER=E

£109,950



**COOK RD, BARRY**  
 Well presented detached, 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen. Driveway-garage, sunny aspect garden, viewing essential.

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£84,950



**MERTHYR DYFAN RD, BARRY**  
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£147,500



**GLAN HAFREN, BARRY**  
 Luxury living on the edge of beach, 3 bedroom apartment, wet room, bathroom, 2 balconies with panoramic views, 2 garages, ample parking. ER=C.

£275,000



**FERN DRIVE, BARRY**  
 Modern semi detached, 2 bedrooms, living room, enclosed rear garden, parking to the front, situated off Colcot Rd. ER=D.

£114,950



**GELYN Y CLWR, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced modern, living room, kitchen/breakfast, 2 bedrooms, designated parking to front. Enclosed private garden. ER=C.

£128,500



**SALISBURY RD, BARRY**  
 Bay fronted mid terraced, traditional dwelling, through living/dining room. 4 bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, minutes walk to Porthceri Park. ER=D.

£159,950



**GWALCH Y PENWAG, BARRY ISLAND**  
 Immaculate presentation, end of link, 3 storey, fitted kitchen, conservatory-access to garage, 4 bedrooms, 2 ensuite bathrooms & dressing room, low maintenance garden. ER=C.

£225,000



**WOODLANDS RD, BARRY**  
 Bay fronted mid terrace, through living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, hobby room in attic, double garage approx 18ft x 16ft. No chain. ER=E.

£145,950



**SURAN Y GOG, BARRY**  
 Modern detached property, 4 bedrooms-master ensuite. Kitchen/breakfast room, WC/cloakroom. Living room/dining room. Garage/driveway. Enclosed rear garden. Well presented. ER=D.

£234,950



**CASTLE STREET, BARRY**  
 Immaculate presentation, corner traditional dwelling, living, dining room, fitted kitchen/breakfast, 2 bedrooms, hobby room in attic, viewing essential. ER=F.

£134,950



**BARRY RD, BARRY**  
 Spacious mid terrace, 3 double bedrooms, living/dining room, kitchen/breakfast, UPVC D/G & GCH via combi, enclosed rear garden. ER=D.

£114,950



**FALCON RD, BARRY**  
 3 Bedrooms, Semi detached, through living room, driveway/garage, no chain, cul de sac position. ER=D.

£134,950



**CONWAY DRIVE, BARRY**  
 Immaculate presentation, modern semi detached, living room, dining room opening to modern kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom, driveway, raised decked sun terrace, lawn garden. ER=C.

£180,000



**JENNER RD, BARRY**  
 Stunning showhome, 3 bedrooms, attic/hobby area with dormer window, refurbished to high standard, living room, open plan/kitchen diner, long garden. ER=E.

£169,950



**HEOL SIRHWI, BARRY**  
 2 double bedrooms, semi detached bungalow, viewing highly recommended, living/dining room, well presented, cul de sac position, driveway providing ample parking, garage. No chain. EP=D.

£154,950



**THE BEECHES, BARRY**  
 Detached, originally a care home. Ground flr: 3 recep. rooms, kitchen, office, WC & shower room, 3 bedrooms, laundry room, 2nd flr: 12 rooms, 9 WCs, 1 bathroom. No chain. UPVC DG, gas central heating

£370,000



**BARRY RD, BARRY**  
 Edwardian mid terraced, 3 double bedrooms, 18ft breakfast/kitchen. Off road parking to rear via lane. Town centre location. No chain. ER=D.

£130,000



**QUEEN STREET, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced traditional, through living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, hobby area to attic, 1st floor bathroom. No chain, GCH via combi (not tested). EPC=D.

£95,000



**BARRY RD, BARRY**  
 End of terrace, double bay traditional, 2 reception rooms, 1st floor bathroom, offered with no chain. ER=D.

£74,950



**HOLMES ST, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced traditional, well presented, through living room, modern fitted kitchen, ground flr bathroom, 3 double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden. No chain. ER=E.

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 Built in 18th century, detached cottage, retaining original features. 2 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, raised decked sun terrace. Detached hobby room, off road parking, very well presented.

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 Spacious 4 bedroom, Persimmon built detached, living room, kitchen/diner, utility room, ensuite to master, detached garage, well presented. ER=C.

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 Maintenance fee, ground floor, living room, modern kitchen, integrated appliances, 2 double bedrooms, sun terrace overlooking communal, gardens. No chain.

£114,950



**BARRY RD, BARRY**  
 End of terrace, double bay traditional, living room, dining room, spacious kitchen/breakfast, 3 double bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, lane access. ER=D.

£149,950



**MOREL STREET, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced traditional, through living room/dining area. Converted garage, cul de sac position, driveway, overlooking vale. ER=C.

£80,000



**ELM GROVE, BARRY**  
 Semi detached bungalow, 3 bedrooms, showhome presented, living room, spacious plot, ample parking, viewing essential. ER=D.

£169,950



**THE PARADE, BARRY**  
 Well presented, traditional semi detached, living room, dining room to conservatory, fitted kitchen, WC & utility room. 3 double bedrooms, driveway with paved driveway/garage. Large garden. ER=D.

£339,950



**HEOL Y GAER, BARRY**  
 First floor apartment, 2 bedrooms, enclosed kitchen, far reaching sea views from rear, UPVC DG - GCH via combi. Allocated parking. No chain. ER=C

£153,950



**WESTON STREET, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced traditional, double bay fronted, living/dining room, fitted kitchen. Enclosed rear courtyard, UPVC - DG via combi. No chain. ER=D.

£112,950



**NANT TALWG WAY, BARRY**  
 Detached traditional, 2 reception rooms, WC cloakroom, fitted kitchen, 4 bedrooms, family bathroom, private enclosed garden, driveway/garage. ER=C.

£269,950



**FONMON PARK RD, RHOOSE**  
 3 bedroomed, link detached, living room/dining area. Converted garage, cul de sac position, driveway, overlooking vale. ER=C.

£159,950



**COLCOT RD, BARRY**  
 Extended dwelling, living room, dining room to sitting area, fitted kitchen/breakfast, WC cloakroom, 4 bedrooms & dressing/study, farm bathroom, level enclosed garden. Garage/driveway. ER=C.

£289,950



**PENCOEDTRE RD, BARRY**  
 Mid terraced traditional, living/dining room, modern fitted kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms (ensuite). Family bathroom, raised decked sun terrace. Lawn area. ER=D.

£134,950



**PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY**  
 Spacious detached, lounge, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, 4 bedrooms, master ensuite, double garage, private enclosed garden. No chain. ER=D.

£379,950



**TREMY DON, BARRY**  
 Stunning detached, original features remaining, 3 reception rooms, conservatory, 5 bedrooms (ensuite), dressing room, bathroom, conservatory, hot tub/sauna, double garage. ER=E.

£499,950



**MERTHYR STREET, BARRY**  
 End of terrace, decorated throughout, through living room, fitted kitchen/breakfast, 3 bedrooms ensuite & family bathroom, stairs to hobby area with velux window. No chain.

£119,950



**PENCOEDTRE RD, BARRY**  
 Semi detached bungalow, 2 double bedrooms, living room, conservatory, large driveway, garage, no chain, enclosed hot tub to remain.

£150,000



**CLIVE ROAD, BARRY**  
 CASH ONLY  
 In need of modernisation, mid terraced traditional, through living, no kitchen, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, gas central heating (needs upgrading)

£79,950



**SWN Y MOR, BARRY**  
 Semi detached bungalow, living room, conservatory, 2 double bedrooms, shower room, longer than average driveway, garage, enclosed garden. No chain. EPC: tba

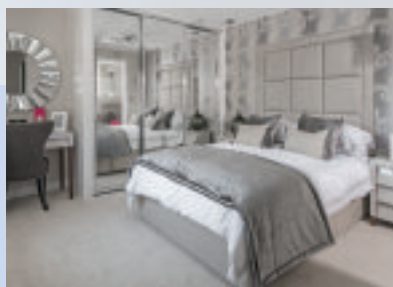
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# On-song Pencoed are too strong for Maesteg Celtic



Man of the match Gareth Prentice fends off a Celtic tackler.  
PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

**P E N C O E D** recaptured their early season form in almost spring like conditions at Garth Welfare Park to run out comprehensive winners against Maesteg Celtic, 54-14.

Pencoed opened the scoring after 15 minutes. No 8 Gareth Prentice drove at the heart of the defence deep in the home 22 and quick ruck ball saw centres Lloyd Ryland and Rhys Vowles put the ball swiftly through the hands for full back Tom Cross to score in the corner, outside half Marc Davies adding a fine conversion from the touchline.

Another driving run from Prentice set up Pencoed's second try, a long pass finding left wing Aaron Songhurst, who burst into space before feeding inside to the supporting Aaron Halse, the flanker racing over halfway out; Davies converted.

The home side were playing their part in this open match but Pencoed were looking the more clinical of the sides in attack, and after absorbing a number of Celtic forays came away from inside their own half with a blindside break from Kyle Barrett, the scrum half putting right wing Glen Hiscocks away and good inside support from Cross got

his second try. Davies converted and Pencoed led 0-21.

Pencoed were now beginning to play with abandon, tight head prop Keiron Moore displaying good hands to pick off a low pass before combined handling outflanked the home defence to send Prentice racing over from 22 metres in the outside centre position for his side's bonus point try, and Pencoed led 0-26 at the interval.

Pencoed started the second half where they had left off, introducing wing Songhurst through centre midfield, the player needing no second invitation to dummy his way over from 22 metres - Davies converted.

Pencoed had certainly brought their best game to the Welfare ground and further breaks from Barrett and Songhurst saw quick ruck possession moved for Vowles to finish, which Davies converted.

Celtic then got the score their efforts deserved. Driving play from their pack saw flanker Ben Jones plunge over, Luke Richards adding the conversion.

Pencoed returned to the attack, Ryland splitting the home midfield before sending Cross in for his try hat-trick, Davies converted. Halse then got his second before Pencoed captain Moore saved his side with a huge try line hit.



Rhys Vowles (above) and Tom Cross (below) both got on the scoresheet.



for the international pm kick off. However the 2nd XV resumed Division 2 will travel to West Central action against Nantaffyllon on Saturday, February 14 for a Mid Glamorgan & District Recreation Ground, 2.30

## PORTHCAWL RFC JUNIOR ROUND-UP

### PORTHCAWL under-8s welcomed CRICC.

The focus of the week's training was passing before being tagged and trying to build the team ethic and this game was our best team display so far this season by a mile.

Every player deserves a mention - Piers scored three tries, two of which came from two moments of vision from both Lex and Theo. These three players have been asked to focus on reading the game and scan for space.

Piers won the top tagger award, Theo scored three tries and made many more with his passing and tagging game improving, and he won top scorer.

Samuel and Ryan both scored two tries apiece and, along with their great running games, also showed off their passing game.

Other standout performances came from Rose, who again tagged superbly and scored another great try, and last but not least Brody who, unfortunately for us, played his best 10 minutes for CRICC, scoring two tries to add to an earlier try for Porthcawl.

In Rob and Stuart's game we started slowly apart from Lewis, who was the only player awake in the first five minutes, tagging like a demon while others drifted backwards and he scored three tries in a blink of an eye.

The team needed more, and Dylan led from the front, driving forward in defence and attack with two great tries; Dexter stormed through the opposition, scoring two great tries and he won the 'clubman making a difference' award.

Dewi went the length of the field for the first of his six tries. Matthew scored three tries. Joel and Oscar came into the team and impressed greatly,

Joel picking up the best effort award. The coaches and players all went home very happy.

Try scorers: Piers (3), Dylan (2), Joel (3), Rose, Dexter (2), Dewi (6), Oscar (2), Lewis (5), Ryan (2), Sam (2), Theo (3), Lex (2), Matt (3), Brody (3).

ROB HOOPER

### PORTHCAWL UNDER-9s 10 CRICC 8

Playing at home for the first time in a very long time against CRICC on a cold but bright morning would hopefully see us continuing our recent good form.

Winning the toss and scoring from kick off is always a good start and seems to settle us down to play decent attacking rugby.

CRICC however have the ability to stick to a task and were never without opportunity and edged the proceedings in the first half taking a lead into the break. The tackling needed to be better and our attacking players just needed to have a little more desire, belief and patience when in possession.

There was not much between the two teams until the last few minutes of this section and the tackling from us went up a gear with Brandon Howells, Will Thomas-Parker and Josh Bowring leading the defensive charge.

Try scorers: Rhys Hibbert (4), Matthew Davidson (2), Max Williams, Will Thomas-Parker, Jac Bevan.

JASON PARKER

### PORTHCAWL UNDER-10s 35 CRICC 30

Try scorers: Teejay Vickery (2), Josh Woodbridge (2), Luke Roberts, Rhys Tunnadine, Jack Olding.

MR



Tyron Davies sets off on a run against Croesyceiliog

## Sports under-9s are in impressive form

**BRIDGEND Sports under-9s welcomed Porthcawl and Croesyceiliog to Newbridge Fields on Sunday morning.**

The young Seaweeds were first to face an on form Sports Under 9's side. The early exchanges were dominated by the Sports due to some excellent tackling from Tyron Davies and Callum Lewis with Dylan Morgan and Dewi Worrall all making important contributions.

Their collective effort pressurised Porthcawl into spilling ball which was then capitalised on. The objective of the game is to score tries and Sports' Joel Rogers was as eager as ever to demonstrate his pace and guile as he scored two for his side to take a 2-0 lead, before Porthcawl struck back with try by Max Williams.

The Sports restarted and retained the ball for long periods, with some driving play and close passing, before finally setting Morgan Edwards in space out wide, and he showed his pace to score for the home team to take a 3-1 lead at halftime.

Porthcawl scored straight from the start in the second half. They were initially held up by tackles from Cian John and Callum Lewis but the young Seaweeds eventually found a gap in midfield to score.

The Sports hit back as Tyron Davies seized the ball 30 metres out and charged up the midfield before being held up. From the restart, the ball was worked to Cian John who raced in to score for the home team to lead 4-2 overall.

Porthcawl scored next to make the score 4-3 following a switch in midfield and a run through the middle. The Sports responded with a try from Tyron Davies who took a pass from

Joel Rogers that put him into space for the Sports to take a 5-3 lead.

It was Porthcawl who now attacked, scoring a try after the home side were penalised for a high tackle. With the Sports now only a point in front, they could not afford to lose ball.

They attacked from the restart, raced upfield following an initial charge from Ieuan Pilliner and then Dylan Morgan, who offloaded well to Iestyn John who passed to the wing, only for the final pass to go to ground.

Porthcawl now with possession, used it well to score and level the game at 5-5. The Sports tried to hit back following the final restart of the game, as good work from Dylan Morgan, Alex Stimpson, Callum Lewis and Cian John saw the ball worked wide to Tyron Davies only for yet another final pass to go astray and the game to end 5-5. Porthcawl's five tries were scored by Max Williams (3), Dylan Bell and Rhys Hibbet.

Bridgend Sports played Croesyceiliog next, and the home team dominated the game, setting down their stall from the off as Joel

Rogers again scored early.

They never looked back as they put their handling game together with the ball often worked into space on many occasions.

Croesyceiliog were impressive when they had the ball but could not penetrate the home defence due to some impressive tackling from Callum Lewis, Dylan Morgan, Cian John, Dewi Worrall and Joel Rogers, ably assisted by Ieuan Pilliner.

The Sports scored three further tries through Dewi Worrall, Morgan Edwards and a further from Joel Rogers. Four further tries were added from Cian John, Dewi Worrall, Ieuan Pilliner and Tyron Davies in the second half for the Sports.

Croesyceiliog tried hard but were unable to register a score and Bridgend Sports ran out convincing winners, 8-0.

The final game of the morning saw Croesyceiliog and Porthcawl compete in an entertaining game, with the Seaweeds securing a 3-1 win.

SP

## Porthcawl Bridge Club

**PORTHCAWL Bridge Club has now introduced a monthly seminar, aimed at average club players (and visitors), who want to improve their technique by way of popular conventions.**

The first talk on 5-Card (Puppet) Stayman was well attended, and hopefully players can now use this to full advantage in their weekly club play. Details of next month's seminar will be announced later.

Latest results are: Saturday, January 24 - First - Pat Haworth and Dil Evans; second - Connie Dick and Roger Draper. Monday, January 26 - First - Terry Dolan and Roger Plant; second - Tony Haworth and Gary

TH

## Bridgend Bridge Club

**THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent events are:**

Wednesday, February 4: 1st Geoff Barnes and Peter Bugden, 2nd Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner, 3rd Linda Pinnock and Denis Mottram. Winners on handicap - Geoff Barnes and Peter Bugden.

Friday, February 6 (club handicap pairs round one): 1st Irene Thomas and Bill Turner, 2nd Linda Pinnock and Marjorie Morris, 3rd Debbie Lea and Emer Disley.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday

and Friday evenings at Noltan Church Hall. Play is scheduled to start at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Noltan Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

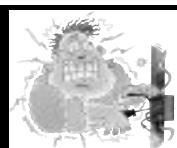
Further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

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Please ring Sue at **The GEM**  
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**Happy Birthday**

**Sarah Smith**  
on 1st January

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Owners or occupiers of the land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Central Licensing Office, Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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## Birthdays

### Happy 15th Birthday

for 9 February

**Cara Marie Wibley**

Lots of love

Mum & Neil, Nicole,  
Mia, Dylan, Scarlett  
& Tyler xxx

### Happy 13th Birthday

**Lucy Jade Wood**  
15 February

Lots of love,  
have a fab day, the great  
grandparents, grandad,  
Nan and David, Clare,  
John, Emma and Jake xxx

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## GEM FAMILY NOTICES

### DAVIES Wilf

Passed away on Sunday, 8 February at Llandough  
Hospital. Very dearly loved husband of Val and  
cherished dad of Sandy. Sadly missed by his beloved  
Poppy. Much loved uncle of Helen, Catherine and  
Richard, great uncle of Kirsty and Stuart. Loving  
uncle of all his other nieces and nephews.

Will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on  
Thursday, 19 February at 2pm, followed by cremation  
at Coychurch crematorium.  
No flowers by request.

### BATTY Alan Stewart

Suddenly on February 4 at his home in  
Rhoose, Alan, a loving and devoted  
husband of Susan.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James &  
Sons, Fommon. Funeral Thursday February 19,  
service and cremation 11am at Cardiff &  
Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by  
request, donations in lieu, if desired, to The Dogs  
Trust, Court Coleman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31  
4NG or Cats Protection, Bridgend AC, Pant  
Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9UJ.

### CLEMENTS Frank

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended  
Frank's funeral on January 30th and to our  
friends and the parishioners of St Helen's  
Church and to Canon Pat. Also, thanks to  
Lyndsay Ellis and Vale Funeral Services for  
their care and compassion. A big thank you for  
everyone's generosity to Frank's chosen charity.  
*Margaret and Family.*

## Valentine's Day

Happy  
Valentine's Day  
**Joshua Yorwerth**



This is our first  
Valentine's Day with  
many years to come.  
All my love  
Melanie  
xxx

## REES

**Violet Lorraine**

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on February  
8th, after a very short illness, at the age of 96  
years, Vi of Jenner Road, Barry. Dearly beloved  
wife of the late Jack, much loved mum of  
Lorraine and Susan and the late John, mother-  
in-law of John and the late Alan, adored nan to  
all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at AG Adams & Son, Tynnewydd Funeral  
Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral  
service in the chapel on Wednesday February 18th  
at 9.15am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff &  
Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 10.15am. Family  
flowers only but donations in lieu to the British  
Heart Foundation and Marie Curie Cancer Care.

## WATTS

**Valerie**

(Formerly of Llantrithyd)

Val's family would like to thank everyone who  
attended her funeral service at Llantrithyd on  
6th January 2015, for the many cards and  
messages received and for the donations made  
towards the Llantrithyd Church Restoration  
Fund.

We would also like to thank the staff at Springbanks  
Nursing Home and West Quay Surgery for the care  
provided to Val.

## JONES

**Mervyn Gordon**

Suddenly but peacefully on 26 January at the  
Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Mervyn of  
St Athan. Beloved husband of Joan, dearly loved  
dad to Sue, Adrian, Cathryn and Neil, father-in-  
law to Peter, Joan, James and Carys, special  
grampa to Hannah, Jonathan, Alex, Luke, Kofi  
and Daisy.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James  
& Sons, Fommon. Funeral Tuesday 17 February,  
service and cremation 2pm at Cardiff & Glamorgan  
Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only may be  
sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if  
desired, to Action for Children, c/o J James,  
11 Fommon Road, Rhoose,  
Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.  
*Forever in our hearts and thoughts.*

## GRIFFITHS

**Berwyn**

On January 29th peacefully at home, Berwyn,  
beloved husband of Lisa, dearly loved father to  
Jessica, Tomos and Eleni, brother to Geraint,  
brother-in-law to Nicola and cherished son of Alun  
and Janis. He fought long and hard with a calm  
courage.

Funeral service will be held on Monday, 16th February  
at Wenallt Chapel Thornhill Crematorium at 2pm.  
No flowers but any donations in lieu should be made to  
Brain Tumour Research via Funeral Directors H J & E  
Piper & Son, Abertridwr, Caerphilly.

### GEARY Keith John

Sylvia Geary and her family would like to  
express their thanks for the cards, letters,  
flowers, telephone calls and visits received on the  
sad loss of Keith, a much loved husband, father  
and grandfather. We have been overwhelmed by  
the kindness and consideration shown.

Sylvia extends her personal thanks and appreciation  
to all her neighbours, ambulance crews, staff at  
UHW, Reverend Huw Butler and members of St.  
Illtud's Church, John James of Fommon, staff at the  
West House Country Hotel and Llantwit Major  
Town Council staff and Councillors for their help  
and support during a very difficult time.

### WILLIAMS Shelagh Eileen

Peacefully, at home, on Tuesday, 27 January,  
Shelagh of Peterston-Super-Ely. Beloved wife of the  
late Ivor, much loved mum of Gordon and Linda,  
mother-in-law of Hugh. Dearest nan of Matthew,  
Andrea and her husband Ade. Nanny Sheel to  
Emilia and Nell.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James &  
Sons, Fommon. Funeral service at St Peters Church,  
Peterston-Super-Ely on Monday, 16th February at  
1.45pm, followed by cremation service at Cardiff and  
Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry, at 3pm. Family  
flowers only, but donations please to CLIMB (Children  
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### GEISHEIMER (Nee Hocking) Jenny

Suddenly at home on January 24th, aged 59.  
Much loved sister of Janet, Bonny, Julie,  
Susan and Phillip, and the late sister of  
Cathy, Tommy and Melvyn. Beloved wife of  
the late Henry.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynnewydd  
Road, Barry, until the service at Cardiff and  
Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East on  
Friday, 13th February at 11am. Flowers may be  
sent to funeral directors.

### CULE Geoffrey

Geoffrey of Marine Drive, Barry, died  
peacefully on 6 February, aged 75, surrounded  
by his loving family. He faced his illness with  
great courage and dignity. Beloved husband of  
Mary and father of Naomi, Tim and Emma.  
Devoted grandfather to Ffion, Morien, Mabli,  
Joe, Charlie, Siôn and Daniel.

The funeral will be at All Saints' Church, Barry at  
2pm on Wednesday, 18 February. Family flowers  
only please but donations can be made to the  
British Heart Foundation. Enquires to William  
James and Sons, Fommon, 01446 710096.

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## Llantwit under-10s are too strong for Llandaff

ON a very misty Sunday morning, Llantwit Major under-10s travelled to Llandaff North.

The match started very quickly, with two lovely running tries from Llantwit, one from Dylan M followed quickly by one from Rhys G.

Llandaff North, were a little stunned, but soon found their feet. They were working hard to get through Llantwit's defence, but Caleb, Dylan W and Logan, were stopping everything that came their way, and after gaining turn over ball in the ruck, Llantwit's Owen was next to race over.

Llandaff were quick off the mark at the next start whistle, and caught Llantwit off guard with some great passing, creating space for their first try.

Llantwit were talking to each other, spreading the field and creating some great passages of play. Rhys D and Tom made some fantastic tackles, forcing the play their way, opening the field for Dylan M and Logan to score again for Llantwit.

It was Rhys G who had the last play of the first half, scoring try number six for Llantwit.

After a quick team talk at halftime, Llantwit were back to the pitch to show that they really can play and enjoy rugby.

With some great



passing from Ollie, and solid defence from Dylan W, Abraham and Caleb, Llandaff just could not get past the defensive line.

Sam A made a fantastic break for the line, scoring his first try of the match, followed quickly by Rhys G.

With some great rucking from Caleb and Owen, play opened up enabling Sam A and Dylan M to score two lovely running tries.

Llandaff were still attacking well and it was only through some solid tackling from Jamie and Rhys D, that Llandaff were kept out.

Llantwit were after every ball, on Llandaff's players quickly, stopping them play their game,

they were rucking to gain possession, and it was through Caleb's fantastic play in the rucks that he was able to pick up a split ball and push over the line.

It was Llantwit who had the final say in the



game too, with a lovely pass from Ollie out to the wing, then on to Tom, who ran over the line to finish the match. Final score: Llandaff North 1, Llantwit Major 12. Try scorers: Dylan M (3), Rhys G (3), Sam A (2), Logan, Owen, Caleb and Tom. Man of the match - Dylan Wright for

SR

## Cowbridge youth team play in rather strange conditions!

THE Cowbridge 1st XV had their game called off due to a frozen pitch, but the BD youth team travelled to St Peters and in a bizarre turn of events won 0-10.

Some players who set off before St Peters said they had problems with their pitch but not long after turning back they were again heading for Cardiff.

When the team got there they saw the problem - only one set of proper posts - but play started 30 minutes later and centre Ashford Thomas got the first try following a charge down.

St Peters were strong up front but conceded penalties and from one, a kick to the corner brought the second try for flanker and captain Joe Davies.

No kicks were allowed due the posts being in order at one end but the other having just one and a stump.

This Saturday, the youth teams take centre stage with BC youth entertaining Bridged Athletic at home in the Cup. Kick off at 2.30pm with Ireland v France to follow.

The BD youth team are away at Ystradgynlais in the Neath Valley in the Bowl, a village with a strong rugby heritage.

All support for both teams would be very

welcome and appreciated.

The 1st XV are back in action on February 21 at home to Old Penarthians.

There was more sad news last week as the club learnt of the passing of Ian Hawkins.

Ian was the sort of player any club would value, a very good No 8, committed, reliable and a lot of fun off the pitch.

Our thoughts are with those closest to him, his family and friends.

RV/RK

## Cowbridge darts league

ON Tuesday, (70), Edmondes A (69), Hare and Hounds (60), Farmer's Arms and Edmondes C (46) and Old Post Ladies (25).

On Tuesday, February 17, there is a full programme of league matches. The Edmondes A hosts Llanharry, the Edmondes C hosts the Edmondes B, the Hare and Hounds hosts the Highwayman Inn and the Farmers Arms hosts the Old Post Ladies.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul a cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date standings after 14 matches, are: Llanharry (105 points), Edmondes B (81), Highwayman Inn

Present league information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk. PJT

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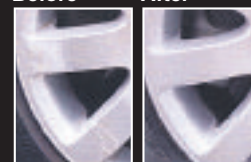
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# THE BARRY AND DISTRICT LADIES SKITTLE LEAGUE

## RESULTS for week commencing January 26:

**First division:**  
Castaways (N Foscolo 27) 247, Allsorts (L Thomas 28) 251; Barry Stars (M Richards 34) 333, Coppers (J Hartnell 36) 327; SV Gals (E Phillips 29) 265, Special Angels (L Mountford, J Abram 30) 252; Pila Palas (J Griffiths, S Bennett, H Stroniforth 30) 314, Colcot Ladies (K Miller 33) 307; Family Affair (S Evans, L Brown, C Grubb 26) 254; Red Admiral (Steph Clements 28) 258, Family and Friends (A Baker, J Jones 23) 222, Space Finders (M Clark 24) 203; Bakers Dozen (R Hewitson 30) 251, Cigar Ladies (G Buffry 30) 248.

## Second division:

After Eights (A Jackson 29) 276, Strikers (P Montgomery 33) 300; Witchill Widows (L Sullivan 33) 309, Clickies (N Harvey 34) 318; SV Lights (P Beadle 30) 294, Vixens (M Marks 28) 218; Witchill Weebies (S Edwards 31) 317, Bobby's Girls (B McDonald 36) 336; Rhooze Starlights (G Oliver 27) 245, Castle Bandits (B Evans 27) 254; Breakaways (Vicky Martin 29) 309, Cad Con Fillies (T Clements 29) 261.

**Third division:** Hill Billies (G Morcraft 34) 316, Rhooze Ravers (C Davidson 34) 270; Westenders (H Coombes 26) 231, Jolly Dollies (C Jones 27) 255; Airways Angels (L Donovan 26) 248, Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 29) 215; Dolly Mixtures (P Davies, E Bryan 22) 222, Rugby Triers (N Williams 26) 193; Persuaders (K Phillips 27) 215, S V Ladies (F Butler, C Griffiths 2) 234; Friends and Neighbours (W Gibbs, L Pugh 24) 232, Lil's Devils (S Jones 30) 261; Merry Makers (R Collins 26) 203, Etcetera (M Grasby 23) 184.

**Fourth division:** Off The Rails (S Doughty 20) 183, Odd Bods (T Ceriani 24) 161; Rebels (R Sutton, J Farr 24) 195, Railway Rogues (S Sjodin 27) 235; Fallen Angels (L Chambers 33) 271, Challengers (P Birmingham, J Dimond 25) 239; Booby Birds (J Ladner 21) 171, La Belles (N Cordy 25) 223.

**Fifth division:** Hell Raisers (A Bennett 23) 173, Smurfs (S Harris 25) 189; Socialites (J Marks 25) 250, Nite Outers (T Harry 27) 228; Guardian Angels (L Harris 24) 177, Aristocats (S Morgan 25) 201.

## Barrivale results

**LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for February 3; this event was the first half of the Barrivale mixed pairs competition.**

1st Kay & Reg Dyer 59.17%; 2nd Jane Brook & Ken Hannah 56.25%; 3rd Mark Roderick & Noelle Bond 55.00%. Kay and Reg Dyer also won this session on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

## Don't Tell Dai! SAYS LOCAL RIDER CONNOR!

**CONNOR BRACE**, Paul Moloney was fourth.

Williams is the top trainer at Ffos Las having saddled 54 winners there to Pembrokeshire's Peter Bowen's 52.

**HIGH HATTON** Cowbridge's Jeff Bird saw his High Hatton land the open maiden race at the Southdown and Eridge Hunt Steeplechases at Godstone on Sunday.

High Hatton, who was giving his trainer Merthyr Mawr's Jonathan Tudor his third winner from six runners this season was given a brilliant ride by James Tudor and apparently won more easily than the half-a-length verdict suggested.

**ALLEZ VIC** Allez Vic, who is trained by Llancarfan's Evan Williams, defied top weight of 11st, 12lb, when winning the handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter last Saturday.

Confidently ridden by Adam Wedge, the nine-year-old won by six lengths from Cafe Au Lait at odds of 4-1.

**BRIAN LEE**

Connor is the grandson of David Brace OBE, who owns the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle near Bridgend.

## MAXANISI WINS BUMPER

Only five horses went to post in the National Hunt flat race (Bumper) at Ffos Las - and three of them were trained by Llancarfan's Evan Williams.

Captain McGinley, trained by Rebecca Curtis who saddled the previous year's winner, was made an odds-on favourite. However, it was the Williams trained 10-1 shot Maxanisi, partnered by Adam Wedge, which caught the judge's eye and was deemed to have won by a neck.

Williams' In On The Act, ridden by Connor Ring, took third place and his other runner Sparksfrommyheels ridden by stable jockey

## RUGBY TALENT EVENING AT CAVC

AS Six Nations fever engulfs Wales, the next generation of rugby players has a unique opportunity to discover how the Cardiff and Vale College Rugby Academy, in partnership with Cardiff Blues, can nurture and develop talent, alongside achieving a quality education.

The CAVC Rugby Academy talent evening will take place tomorrow (Friday, February 13),

from 6pm at Cardiff Arms Park and will provide the opportunity for young people to learn more about the academy and how it mirrors a professional sporting environment; while also finding out more about the range of courses on offer, from A Levels and apprenticeships to career focused courses in a variety of subjects.

To find out more and to register your place, visit: [cavcrugbyacademy.eventbrite.co.uk](http://cavcrugbyacademy.eventbrite.co.uk).

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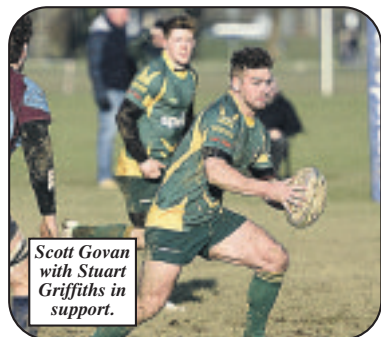
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# Athletic land bonus-point victory over Tata Steel



Scott Govan with Stuart Griffiths in support.



Tom Morgan and Ryan Owen in the thick of it.  
PICTURES BY GLENNSPORTS.

**BRIDGEND Athletic picked up a bonus point victory, outscoring local rivals Tata Steel by four tries to one in an excellent 24-10 bonus point victory.**

The Athletic were disrupted on the day by the withdrawal of No 8 Dan Apsee and outside half Robert Evans.

However the club has strength in depth now in nearly all positions and Darren Deguerra and Scott Govan stepped into the line up and both played significant roles in the win.

Tata Steel fielded three former Athletic players in outside half Steve Lewis, flanker Stuart Edbrooke and wing Lloyd Rogers.

Tata Steel kicked off under blue skies and a slight breeze in their favour. For the first five minutes they were camped inside the Athletic 22, but despite using backs and forwards to probe, the Athletic defence was equal to the challenge.

The Athletic then took the game to Tata and in the 10th minute hooker Nathan Holman found captain Sean Williams at a lineout 15 metres out.

The Athletic, under the tutelage of coaching assistant Ian Greenslade, have perfected a catch and drive and the forwards drove over the try line for prop Rod Apsee to cross for his first try of the season.

Both sides were playing a high tempo game using their backs at every opportunity. The second Athletic try was started and finished by centre Ryan Owen.

He made a break from just inside his own half and brilliant interpassing along the touchline involving fellow centre Tom Morgan, full back Michael Hathaway and outside half Scott Govan, saw Owen on hand to cross wide out for his third try of the season.

The score remained at 10-0 until the last minute of the half when Tata outside half Steven Lewis reduced the deficit to 10-3 with a penalty.

The third Athletic try came from another lineout drive. When the move was halted 30 metres out a maul was set up. Scrum half Jake Williams produced a

show and go to completely deceive the Tata defence to run in from 30 metres for his first senior Athletic try. Scott Govan converted to stretch the lead to 17-3.

The Athletic's search for a bonus point was then halted as within a minute both hooker Nathan Holman and No 8 Griff Davies were confined to the sin bin for technical offences.

Tata sought to take advantage, electing for a scrum five metres out in front of the Athletic's posts. The Athletic's props Matthew Norman and Rod Apsee had been dominating their opposite numbers all game and with the introduction of hooker Iestyn Merryman, the six man scrum drove back the Tata eight, forcing them to concede a penalty.

The Athletic six continued to dominate during the sin bin period with locks Darren Deguerra and Tom Penry Ellis carrying effectively and the lone survivor of the rearranged back row, Sean Williams, providing a captain's inspiration in survival.

The Athletic pack even managed to halt a five-metre catch and drive by the Tata eight, forcing an error to keep their line intact through the sin bin period. Wings Lyndsey MacAuland and Stuart Griffiths both brought off try-saving tackles during this period.

However despite surviving the 10 minutes with 13 men, at the end of the period Tata did reduce the deficit when wing Keiron Harris was worked clear to run in from 20 metres out. Lewis converted to make the score 17-10.

That was the last occasion Tata threatened on the game, with man of the match flanker Matthew Hillman prominent in both attack and defence.

Another lineout drive from 10 metres out this time saw No 8 Griff Davies cross for his third try of the season. Govan converted the bonus point try to stretch the lead to 24-10.

The Athletic introduced props Matt Muir and Wayne Fookes and flanker Ben Howe and scrum half Aled Thomas, who had earlier

acted as a blood replacement, to see out time on an excellent victory.

Despite the well deserved victory, there are some game management issues for the coaches to work on, along with too many yellow cards this season if the Athletic are to keep their recent form and move up the table.

In their last six games they have won four and picked up losing bonus points in two games for 18 of the 33 points they have achieved this season. If they had maintained this form over the season they would be challenging for third place in the table.

They have an excellent chance to extend this run when they visit Blackwood this Saturday. Following internal troubles, Blackwood appear to be in freefall and the Athletic must look to take advantage.

**GLYNNEATH 2NDs 17 BRIDGEND 2NDs 29**  
**Bridgend Athletic Second XV came away**

from their Glynneath counterparts with a seasonal double and a bonus point victory, outscoring the home side by five tries to three with a 29-17 victory.

This win kept the Athletic at the summit of the Mid Glamorgan District Premier League.

With many players having overindulged watching the previous night's international, playing up the famous Glynneath sloping pitch was not the way they wanted to start the game.

Without the resolute defence of Aaron Mordecai and Josh Miles, the Athletic may have gone in at halftime with a greater deficit than the 10-0 scoreline, courtesy of two unconverted tries to the home side.

The second half game plan was to gain territory and cut out the miracle passes. Glynneath were now being penalised for persistent offside by the referee and this enabled the Athletic back line to function.

Lock Lloyd Griffiths crashed over for a try for the Athletic. Poor tackling led to a third Glynneath converted try to open up a 17-5 advantage but the Athletic responded with catch and drive from a five-metre lineout that saw Liam Griffiths cross wide out.

Aled Pilliner showed some neat footwork resulting in a try for Josh Seldon. Seldon crossed for his second try following a barnstorming run from Harry Griffiths. Griffiths then moved from lock to wing to accommodate Jamie Doherty as wing Andrew Tyler left the field with an injury.

Griffiths showed his versatility with an excellent solo run to cross for the Athletic bonus point try. Nick Hinton converted two of the tries for a hard earned 29-17 win. Nick Jones helped to keep the Athletic on the front foot in the final stages with astute tactical kicking and solid defensive work.

AB



Mike Kennedy forces his way through for Kenfig Hill.  
PICTURES BY PETER GILLING.

## Kenfig Hill back on winning track

**KENFIG HILL were looking to this game at home against Dunvant to get back to winning ways – and they did not disappoint.**

From the start, they moved the ball at every occasion possible and this eventually led to their first try by inspirational number 8 Jason Davies. The try was converted by outside half Lloyd Giles, who then quickly followed it up with a penalty.

Dunvant finished the first half strongly, themselves trying to play expansive rugby, but could only add a penalty converted by Adam Parry Williams.

The Mules started the second half very strongly with the wing



Aaron Grabham crosses the try line.

replacement Aaron finished yet though and Grabham scoring two quick tries in succession, making the score 20-3. Dunvant, however, did not give in and showed great character to come back with two tries by Rhys Tucker and Andrew Price, converted again by Williams.

The Mules started the second half very strongly with the wing Kenfig Hill were not 27-15.

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# SIX NATIONS RUGBY

WALES 16 : ENGLAND 21



Team can prove drab display was a 'one-off' and get back on track



Photographs by  
Huw Evans  
Agency

## Woeful Wales looking for redemption against Scots

**E**VEN now, almost a week later, the shock waves following the 16-21 humbling by an injury-hit, revamped England side, continue to be felt, as a shaken Welsh squad now have to steel themselves for their next big test – against a resurgent Scottish side at Murrayfield on Sunday.

While the steadily-improving Scots can take heart from a spirited display against France in their Six Nations opening game in Paris – despite going down 15-8 – in contrast, the Wales team can only look back with a shudder on an insipid performance that was unrecognisable from the heroics of two years ago – when they crushed a far more formidable Grand Slam-hunting England side 30-3.

On Friday evening, in a hyped-up, expectant Millennium Stadium and facing far less experienced opponents, several of whom were being thrust into the heat of battle in the intimidating Cardiff atmosphere for the first time, a settled, injury-free home team packed with British Lions were clear pre-match favourites.

They were widely expected to again steamroller the men in white, as the first step towards a possible fourth Grand Slam in nine years, before taking on the rugby world later this year.

Not for the first time, though, the heavy weight of expectation may well have been part of Wales' downfall, for it does not rest lightly on shoulders that historically seem more at ease with the tag of underdogs than favourites – and have long struggled to attain the kind of consistency and ingrained self-assurance exuded by the likes of world champions New Zealand, for example.

How else to explain the Welsh camp's dismal failure to rise to the occasion and seize

such a golden opportunity to lay down an early marker – instead of handing the psychological initiative to age-old rivals they will next face at the Rugby World Cup in Twickenham in September?

Most vexing of all for head coach and Kiwi, Warren Gatland, was surely the abysmal second half display, which fell well below the standards set since his tenure began in 2008, which has included three Six Nations championships and a World Cup semi final in 2011.

Yet it had all begun so promisingly when Wales went ahead barely a minute from the kick-off, with a penalty by Leigh Halfpenny, and then Dragons No 8, Taulupe Faletau, broke away from an unstable attacking scrum and passed to scrum half Rhys Webb, who broke through a defensive gap for a try converted by Halfpenny, to give Wales a 10-0 lead after seven minutes.

Home joy was short-lived, however, as England hit back almost immediately with an inventive try of their own, after Mike Brown had delivered a neat grubber kick enabling right wing Anthony Watson to touch down unopposed – impressive outside half George Ford's conversion attempt hitting an upright – to halve the Welsh lead.

Up then stepped 'Mr Reliable', Leigh Halfpenny to land a monster 45-yard penalty and remind the opposition not to infringe anywhere in the field – but in fact it was the home team that offended, and this time Ford made no mistake to narrow the points margin to 13-8.

Liam Williams (who some felt should have had a starting spot) came on briefly after wing George North was injured and immediately injected the energy and pace that had been woefully lacking; and after Halfpenny had uncharacteristically missed with a penalty attempt, outside half Dan Biggar slotted over a snap drop goal, to make the halftime score

16-8. It seemed a promising enough platform to build on, but little did anyone in the crowd know then that Wales would fail to score again in a truly dire second half, during which their set piece troubles would mount and they would be out-thought and out-fought in all departments.

Indeed, it took the increasingly confident and far more inventive, attack-minded visitors only four minutes to narrow the margin to one point with a try by impressive centre Jonathan Joseph, converted by his Bath team mate, Ford.

Wales fell foul of the French referee yet again, and were fortunate that Ford missed with a second penalty attempt. But when Welsh wing Alex Cuthbert was yellow-carded, the former made no mistake and after an English try was disallowed, it was the outside half who applied the inevitable *coup de grace* with the decisive penalty that made the final score 16-21.

Little wonder that a grim-faced Gatland apparently had little to say to his charges in the dressing room afterwards – his silence was enough.

To the media he was a little more forthcoming, singling out individual errors and defending a limited game plan that placed an undue emphasis on tactical kicking deep into space, rather than retaining good possession and putting the untried English defence to the test with ball in hand.

Unlike their opponents, they failed to launch a single threequarter movement of any note. "We wanted to use the kicking game as an attacking weapon," he explained, adding that it was the way of the modern game.

However... "at this level, you have got to be accurate," he said ruefully, referring to the plethora of ill-placed kicks that were easily dealt with and all too often enabled England to launch counter attacks that immediately put Wales on the back foot.

TOP LEFT: Jamie Roberts had been expected to test a perceived lightweight defence, but in fact made only one trademark charge through the middle as Wales stuck to an ultimately fruitless kicking game.

ABOVE: Full back Mike Brown was a constant attacking threat and also underlined Welsh lack of creativity in setting up England's first try.

BELOW: Spectacular, but out of place: The controversial laser-lights show minutes before the start, that did nothing to build up excitement on a chilly Friday night in Cardiff and the capacity crowd impatient to watch a game of rugby!



Gatland did not feel that England were "massively depleted", arguing that they enjoyed strength in depth and that "the players who came in did a massive job for them".

Even so, he must have been dismayed at the tame second half surrender of seasoned troops to a mixed force containing relatively raw international recruits.

It was a comprehensive defeat and it will be fascinating to see how the Welsh camp respond to a setback that could have implications far beyond the result, not only for their 2015 Six Nations hopes, but the World Cup campaign, and even the continued recovery of Welsh rugby itself.

The pressure is now on and Edinburgh this Sunday has suddenly assumed a much greater significance as the squad seek to get back on a winning track. There is no doubt it can be done – but this really is now a must-win game.

No wonder all eyes were on Gatland's team announcement yesterday – Liam Williams the only change, replacing George North.

### WALES TEAM:

Leigh Halfpenny (Toulon), Alex Cuthbert (Blues), Jonathan Davies (ASM Clermont Auvergne), Jamie Roberts (Racing Metro), Liam Williams (Scarlets), Dan Biggar (Ospreys), Rhys Webb (Ospreys), Gethin Jenkins (Blues), Richard Hibbard (Gloucester), Samson Lee (Scarlets), Jake Ball (Scarlets), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (Ospreys), Sam Warburton (Blues), Taulupe Faletau (Dragons).

REPLACEMENTS: Scott Baldwin (Ospreys), Paul James (Bath Rugby), Aaron Jarvis (Ospreys), Luke Charteris (Racing Metro), Justin Tipuric (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Racing Metro), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Scott Williams (Scarlets).